16

神崎裕也
Yûya Kanzaki

DESIGN: TAKEUCHI RYOSUKE [CRAZY FORCE]

BUNCH COMICS

ウロボロス
ouroboros
警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ
16
神崎裕也
Yûya Kanzaki
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裏 カジノが行われている豪華客船「エスメラルダ」の船上では、竜哉と天羽兄弟の闘いが加速する。コンビプレーが冴え渡る天羽兄弟に、竜哉は追い詰められていた。一方、聖隊の違法捜査の実態を暴くため、潜入捜査中のイクオは、ついに金時計の男と目する聖副総監と全面対決をするが――。

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Yûya Kanzaki

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CAST&STORY

NAME : HIBINO MIDUKI
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD
PERSONNEL AND: TRAINING
BUREAU, INSPECTION OFFICE
RANK: LIEUTENANT

NAME : DANNO TATSUYA
AFFILIATION: DANNO FAMILY
(FIRST-RANK BRANCH, ABIKO GROUP)
TITLE: FAMILY LEADER

NAME : RYUZAKI IKUO
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD
PERSONNEL AND TRAINING
BUREAU, INSPECTION OFFICE
RANK: SERGEANT

ouroboros

NAME : CHONO SHINICHI
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD
ORGANIZED CRIME BUREAU,
FOURTH DIVISION
RANK: CAPTAIN

NAME : MOTOI YOKO
AFFILIATION: FORENSICS
LABORATORY

NAME : HIBINO KUNIHIKO
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD
PERSONNEL AND TRAINING BUREAU
RANK: COMMISSIONER
POSITION: INSPECTOR-GENERAL

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CAST & STORY

NAME : GOLD WATCH
NO DATA

NAME : ABIKO KIRINO
AFFILIATION: ABIKO GROUP
TITLE: WIFE OF THE LEADER

NAME : HIJIRI YUKITO
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD
RANK: SENIOR COMMISSIONER
POSITION: DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

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STORY

RYUZAKI IKUO AND DANNO TATSUYA CARRY THE BURDEN OF A PAST IN WHICH THEIR MOST BELOVED PERSON, YUIKO-SENSEI, WAS MURDERED AND THE CRIME WAS COVERED UP BY THE POLICE. GROWING INTO ADULTHOOD, IN ORDER TO UNCOVER THE SECRET BEHIND THE CASE, AND THE IDENTITY OF THE "MAN WITH THE GOLD WATCH" WHO ORCHESTRATED THE COVER-UP, IKUO BECAME A DETECTIVE AND TATSUYA JOINED THE YAKUZA.

AFTER BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE MPD HEADQUARTERS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU, FIRST DIVISION, THE MISFIT DUO IKUO AND HIBINO MIDUKI ARE APPOINTED "INSPECTORS" OF THE PERSONNEL AND TRAINING BUREAU BY MIDUKI'S FATHER, INSPECTOR-GENERAL HIBINO KUNIHIKO. AS DIRECT SUBORDINATES OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL HIBINO, THE FIRST MISSION THEY ARE ENTRUSTED WITH IS TO "SMITE THE AVATAR OF CORRUPTION" WITHIN THE MPD. HIBINO HAS BEEN SENT FROM THE INSPECTION OFFICE AT THE KANAGAWA PREFECTURE POLICE HEADQUARTERS WITH THE SECRET MISSION OF PUTTING AN END TO THE FACTIONAL STRIFE IN THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE MPD. AT LONG LAST, IKUO GETS CLOSER TO THE SYMBOL OF "CORRUPTION", AND STRONG CANDIDATE FOR BEING "THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH", DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL HIJIRI YUKITO.

MEANWHILE, TATSUYA ASCENDS STEADILY IN THE WORLD OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN PURSUIT OF HIS GOAL TO FIND "THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH" FROM THE SHADOWS...

IKUO IS ORDERED BY INSPECTOR-GENERAL HIBINO TO CONDUCT AN INFILTRATION OF THE LUXURY CRUISE SHIP "ESMERALDA". OPENING ONCE EVERY FOUR MONTHS AS A "CLANDESTINE CASINO", IT IS OPERATED BY THE URABE HOUSEHOLD AND IS BEHIND ITS RAPID GROWTH. THE HIJIRI SQUAD, AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE EFFORT TO ERADICATE CRIME SYNDICATES, IS SAID TO BE ABOUT TO LAUNCH A LARGE-SCALE RAID ON THE SHIP. IKUO'S MISSION IS TO INFILTRATE THE SHIP TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE OF THE ILLEGAL INVESTIGATION METHODS OF THE HIJIRI SQUAD.

UPON ENTERING THE SHIP UNDERCOVER, IKUO IS SHOCKED TO CATCH SIGHT OF TATSUYA, WHO BOARDED IN COMPANY OF ABIKO KIRINO. SHORTLY BEFORE THE HIJIRI SQUAD BEGINS ITS RAID, CHAOS ERUPTS IN THE SHIP. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION TO ELIMINATE ALL WHO STAND IN THEIR WAY, THE AMO BROTHERS SWOOP DOWN ON TATSUYA.

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER 94:
FACE 005

CHAPTER 95:
SCARLET 053

CHAPTER 96:
PLUNGE 097

CHAPTER 97:
SEPARATE 141

Redrawer needed for Sprite!

I won't mince my words: ***Sprite***, with its combination of hand art and CG, plus the use of photographs to generate backgrounds, is one the hardest series for redrawing. Only aces among aces can do it. It has few redraws per chapter, but most are double spreads that need to be joined and extremely hard and time-consuming. Essentially, if you can redraw ***Sprite***, you can redraw anything in B&W that may be thrown at you.

We cannot accept anything less than someone who passes our full test, including the extra difficulty pages, with flying colours: https://goo.gl/qfnsc6

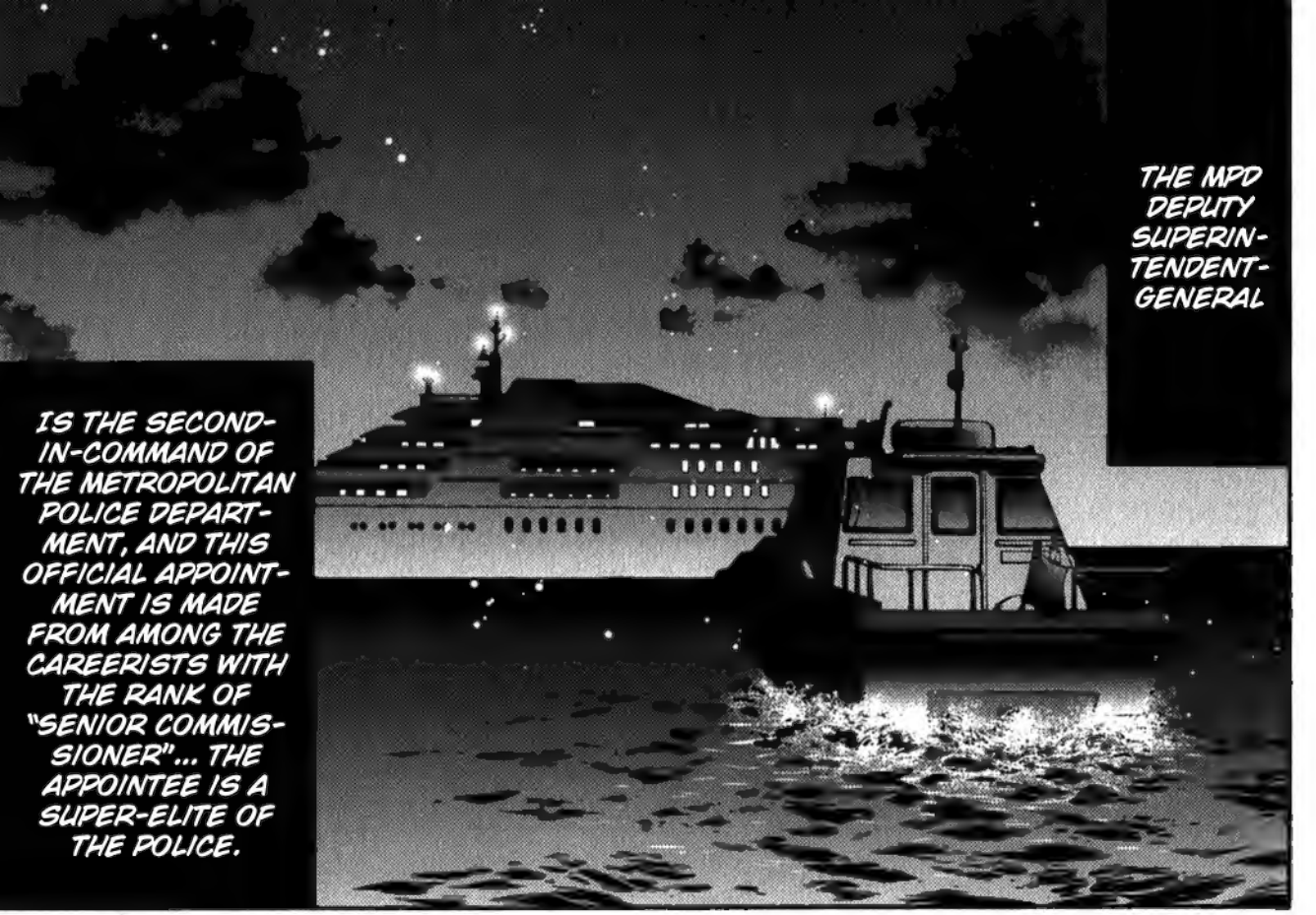
(You can post your application in our home page in the Join Us section - deathtollscans.net - or PM me there or in Batoto (where my name is Kendama). Whatever. If you have the skills, we're willing to abide by your conditions.)

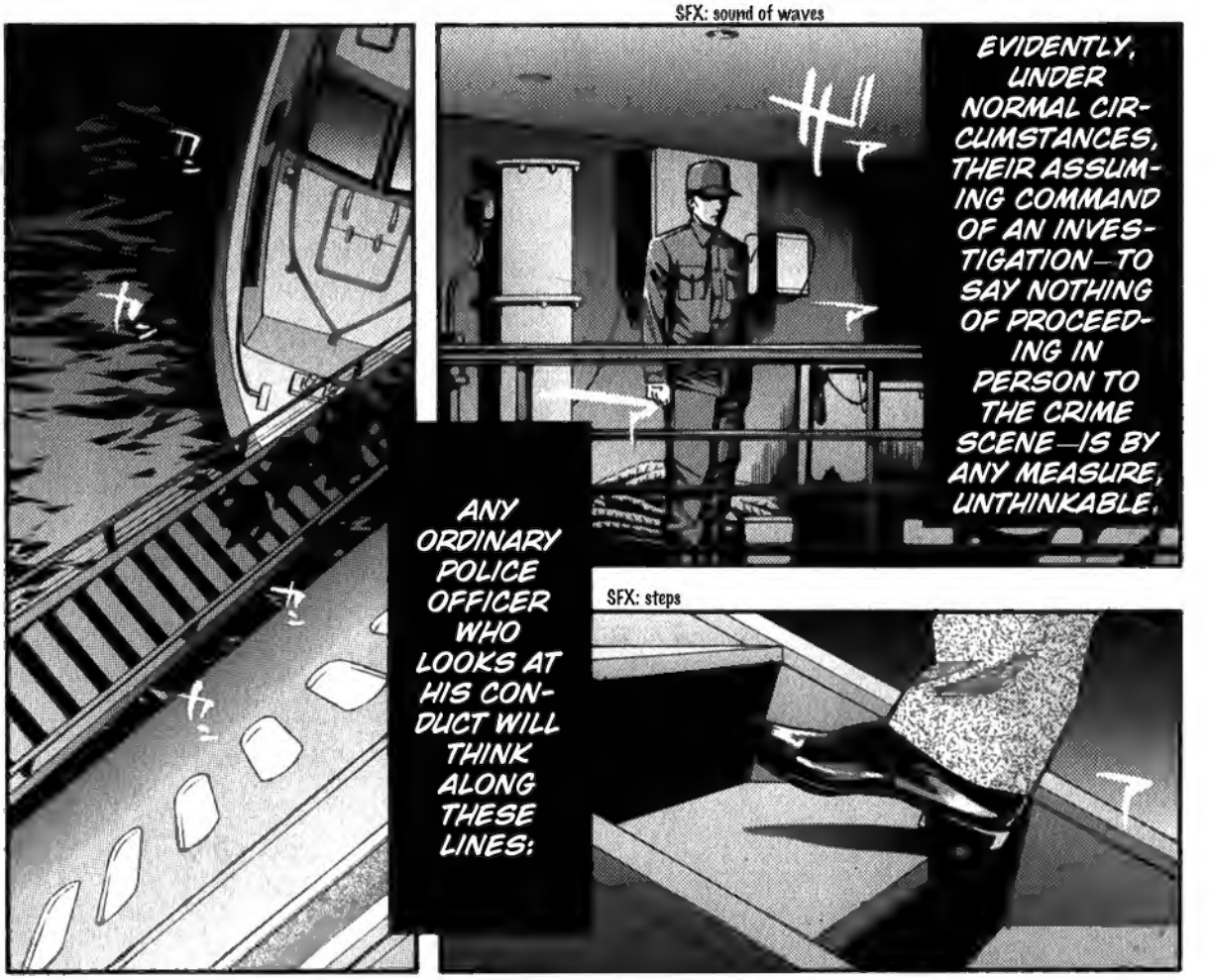
We can also make an exception and let you bypass the test if you are experienced and show us sample PSDs (retaining the unredrawn layers) of your past work. However, that will only cut it if those samples are nothing short of extraordinary. If our jaws don't drop, we'll ask you to take the test.

It took us months to recruit the previous redrawer, so don't expect new releases of this series for a while, unless we're very lucky.

The Internet, October 15, 2016,

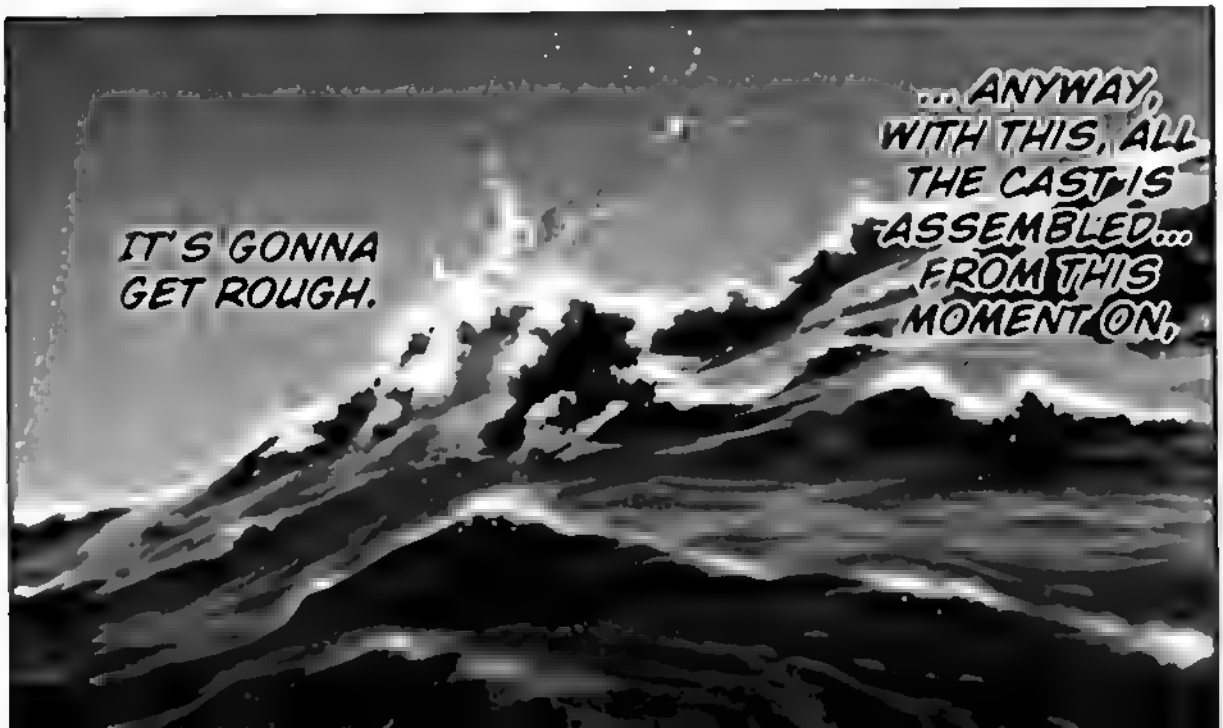
Wraith
Death Toll Scanlations


THE MPD DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL
IS THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THIS OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT IS MADE FROM AMONG THE CAREERISTS WITH THE RANK OF "SENIOR COMMISSIONER"... THE APPOINTEE IS A SUPER-ELITE OF THE POLICE.


SFX: sound of waves
EVIDENTLY, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THEIR ASSUMING COMMAND OF AN INVESTIGATION—TO SAY NOTHING OF PROCEEDING IN PERSON TO THE CRIME SCENE—IS BY ANY MEASURE, UNTHINKABLE.
ANY ORDINARY POLICE OFFICER WHO LOOKS AT HIS CONDUCT WILL THINK ALONG THESE LINES:
SFX: steps

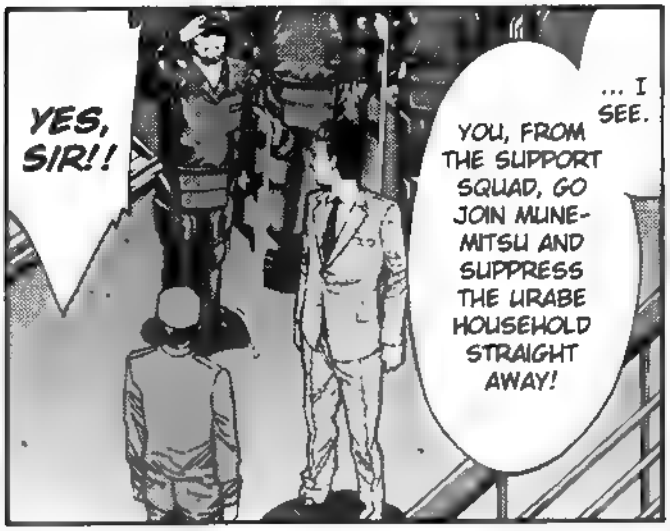
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI'S AIM OF "CREATING A STRONG POLICE",
CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SIMPLY A MATTER OF JUSTICE AND NOTHING ELSE...!
CRACK!
POLICE
鏡
第25話
CHAPTER 94: FACE

DOESN'T IT WEAKEN EVEN AS HE GROWS OLD...?
... WHAT TREMENDOUS AMBITION... DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI.


IT'S GONNA GET ROUGH.
... ANYWAY, WITH THIS, ALL THE CAST IS ASSEMBLED... FROM THIS MOMENT ON,

FROM AMONG THEM... WHO IS GOING TO DIE...!?

BECAUSE OF THAT, OUR RAID ENDED IN FAILURE.
YES, SIR!
I WANT TO KNOW THE PRESENT SITUATION... YOU SAY THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE URABE HOUSEHOLD AND THE ABIKO GROUP?


YES, SIR!!
... I SEE.
YOU, FROM THE SUPPORT SQUAD, GO JOIN MUNEMITSU AND SUPPRESS THE URABE HOUSEHOLD STRAIGHT AWAY!

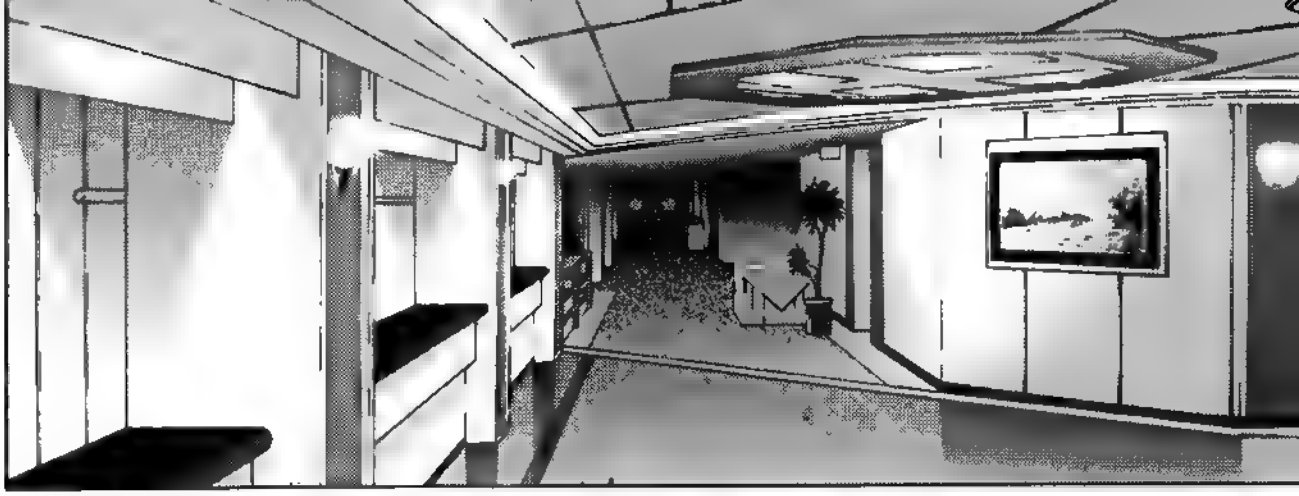
ABOUT THAT...
SO... WHO FROM THE ABIKO GROUP IS HERE?

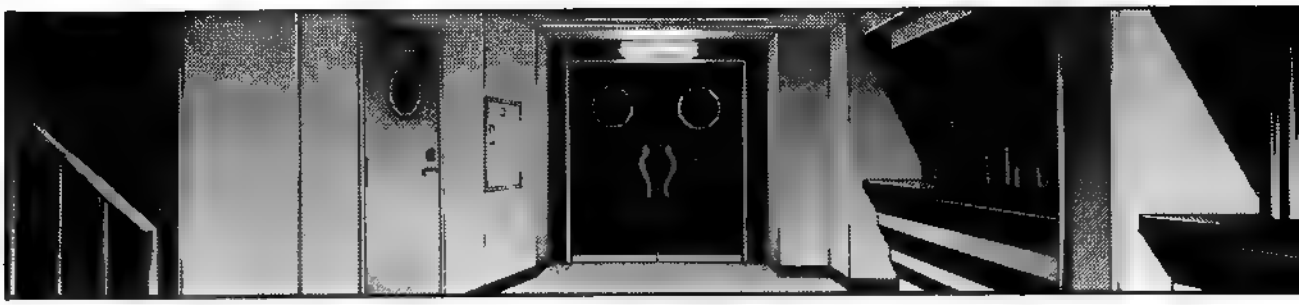
!
IT APPEARS TO BE THE DE FACTO LEADER OF THE GROUP, ABIKO KIRINO...

I CANNOT TELL FOR SURE, BUT THE MEMBERS OF THE URABE HOUSEHOLD NUMBER AROUND 30.
WE HAVE ALREADY SECURED ONE OF THE THREE INNER DECKS.
AT PRESENT, SQUAD LEADER MUNEMITSU IS ENGAGING THEM, BUT BECAUSE IT IS IMPERATIVE TO AVOID INVOLVING THE ORDINARY CITIZENS, IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND.

FURTHER-
MORE
THERE IS
ANOTHER
UNEX-
PECTED
PERSON
?
!
HE IS
ALSO ON
BOARD.
SERGEANT
RYUZAKI
IKUO FROM
THE PER-
SONNEL AND
TRAINING
BUREAU,
INSPECTION
OFFICE.
.....
I SHALL
SETTLE
MATTERS
WITH
RYUZAKI
MYSELF
WHAT..
DO WE DO
ABOUT
HIM?
I AM AFRAID
HE BOARDED
THE SHIP
TO OBTAIN
EVIDENCE OF
OUR ILLEGAL
INVESTIGA-
TION METH-
ODS.

BANG!
BANG!
I AM SURE THAT IS ALSO WHAT HE WISHES...!
SFX: ka-dump!





SFX. knock!

SFX. swish
GRIP!

MY BIG BROTHER'S KNIFE IS WORRISOME ISN'T IT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, DAN-NO-SAN?

THE REACH IS CERTAINLY GREATER THAN MINE... BUT,
.....

YOU SEE, BY HOLDING IT WITH ONE FINGERTIP, HE CAN CHANGE ITS TRAJECTORY HOWEVER HE WANTS.

SFX: whoosh

ON TOP OF THAT, THE FULL BODY OF THE KNIFE HAS A FAR LONGER REACH THAN IF IT'S HELD BY THE HANDLE... YOUR ATTACKS WON'T LAND.
WHIRR
WHIRR

THERE IS TOO MUCH OF A GAP IN COMBAT EXPERI-ENCE BE-TWEEN US.
STUPID BRATS.
SFX: stand!
SFX: wham!

SFX: swish! Whoosh! Slash!
HMMM MM...
NOW I'M AN-NOYED...

SFX: twitch twitch!
Murderdolls

SFX: rise!
Murderdolls

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL BIG BROTHER LOSES. THIS IS...
ISN'T HE STRONG... THIS DANNO FELLOW.
I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A YAKUZA PLAYBOY WHOM ABIKO KIRINO TOOK A FANCY TO.
WHIRR
WHIRR
SFX: glance!
SFX: whoosh!

!!

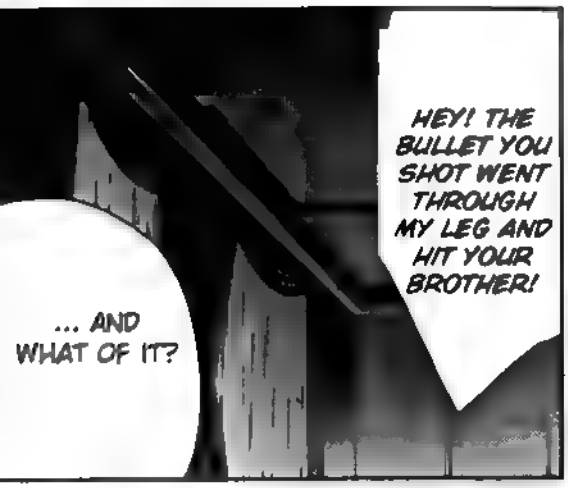
!?
AS I THOUGHT HE'S AN AMATEUR AT FIGHTING

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO ON A KID FIGHT WITH YOU
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE!

GNN
GNN
GNN
...

WH-
WHAT?

HAHA... WHEN DID I SAY THIS WAS GOING TO BE A ONE-ON-ONE MATCH?
WELL,
WE'RE BOTH FILTHY YAKUZA FELLOWS, SO I'M SURE THERE WILL BE NO HARD FEELINGS.
SFX. step step!
BIG BROTHER, GET A HOLD OF DAN-NO-SAN. FIRMLY!
EVEN IF YOU ARE USED TO FIGHTING, WITH A GUN BEFORE YOU, YOU ARE AT THE END OF THE LINE.
SFX. slump!
UGH ...!!
UGH


HEY! THE BULLET YOU SHOT WENT THROUGH MY LEG AND HIT YOUR BROTHER!
... AND WHAT OF IT?

!!
TRICKLE

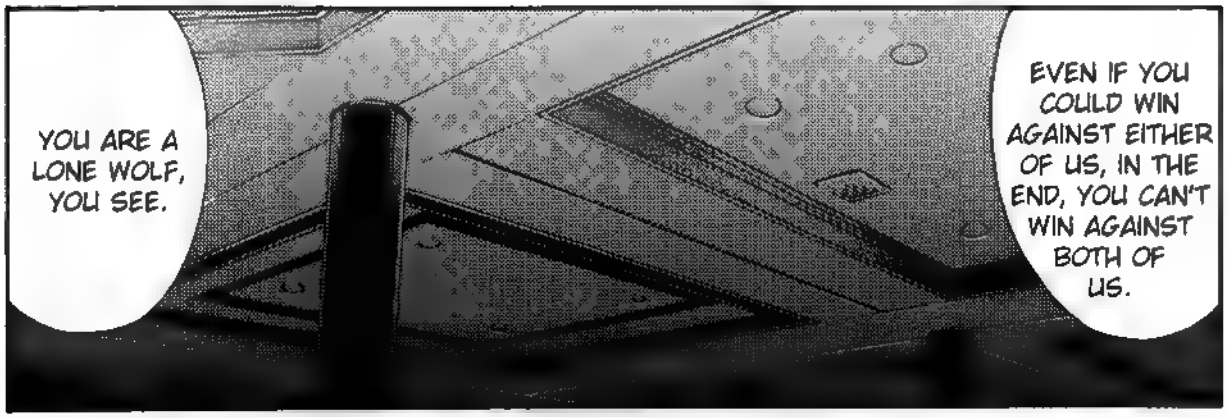
YOUR LEG IS IN THAT STATE... AND BIG BROTHER WILL PREVENT YOU FROM MOVING.
MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY BIG BROTHER, DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION?
AND I AM APPROACHING YOU WITH A GUN AT THE READY, RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.

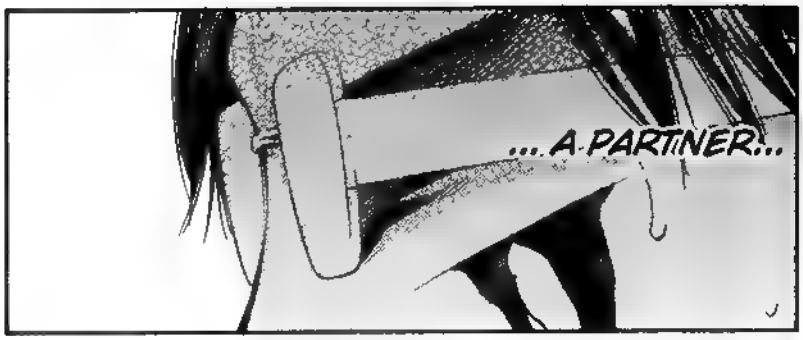
SFX gun
FOR THE SAKE OF HIS LITTLE BROTHER, TAKING ONE BULLET, TWO BULLETS... HE'S FINE WITH IT!
OUT OF BROTHERLY CONCERN

!!....
YOU MANIAC BROTHERS...!

THIS IS BAD...
AM I GOING TO DIE...!?
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOUR SHEER PHYSICAL STRENGTH IS NOTHING TO LAUGH AT.
ENTICING LADY KIRINO WITH THAT SWEET MASK OF YOURS, AND BEING A MASTER OF INCREASING SHINOGI WITH THAT BRILLIANT MIND.
SFX: step!
DANNO-SAN,
YOU ARE CERTAINLY A SUPERSTAR OF THE ORGANIZED CRIME WORLD.

IT'S A MATTER OF SIMPLE ADDITION.
SFX: point!
.....
HOWEVER, DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU WERE UNABLE TO WIN AGAINST US "BRATS".
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
WE'RE TWO.
AND YOU ARE ONLY ONE.


YOU ARE A LONE WOLF, YOU SEE.
EVEN IF YOU COULD WIN AGAINST EITHER OF US, IN THE END, YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST BOTH OF US.


...A PARTNER...

IKUO...

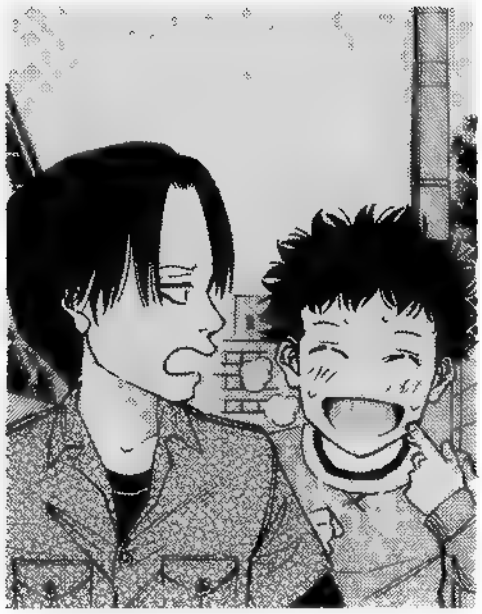
IF YOU, DANNO-SAN, ALSO HAD A PARTNER YOU COULD RELY ON, IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT, BUT...
IT DOESN'T SEEM YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS, DOES IT? HEHE...
.....

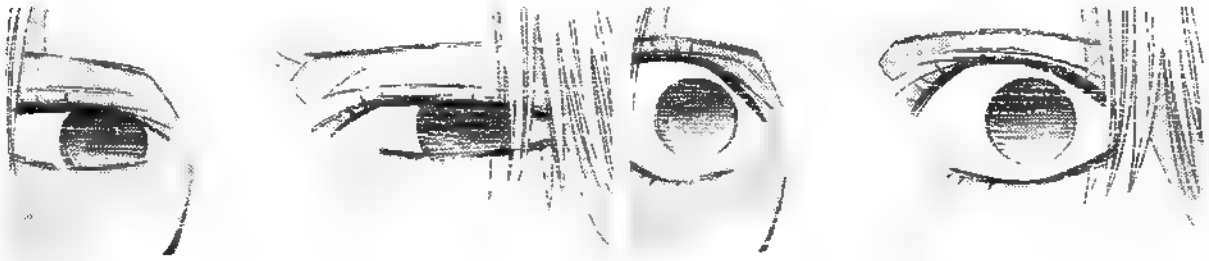
THAT WASN'T THE REASON I WAS IRRITATED.

IN FACT, I KNEW.

"IKUO GETTING CLOSER TO HIBINO MIDUKI WILL GET IN THE WAY OF OUR REVENGE."

I...





THE ONLY THING I AM AFRAID OF,

IS IKUO NOT BEING BY MY SIDE.

!!
SFX stand
SFX slip
INSPECTOR HIBINO... I'M SORRY.
.....

SFX: crack!

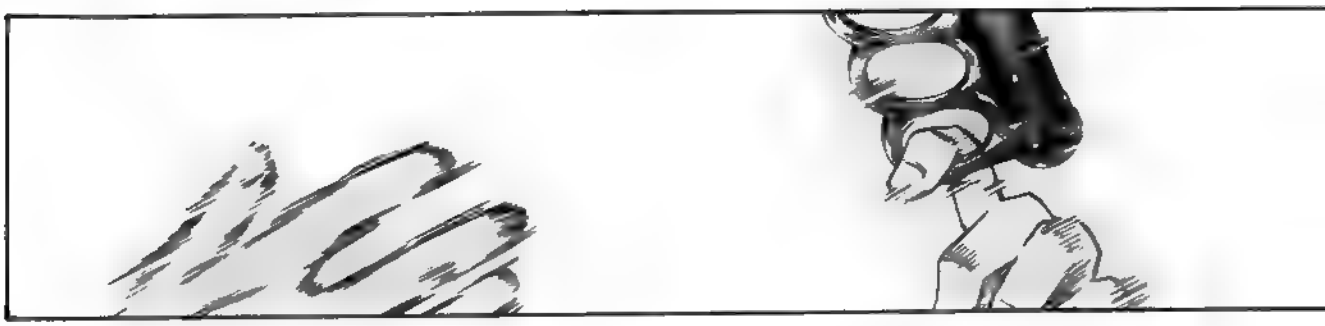
HEEH
!
WHAT'S THAT.
DON'T TELL ME YOU SERIOUSLY HAVE AN ALLY, DANNO-SAN
CONSIDERING HE'S DANNO-SAN'S PARTNER, HIS LOOKS ARE QUITE A LET-DOWN, I MUST SAY
ABOUT WHOSE PARTNER IS STRONGER, THAT IS.
WELL, SHALL WE TRY A QUICK MATCH?

SFX: whoosh!

SFX: swish! Whoosh!

SFX. bump!

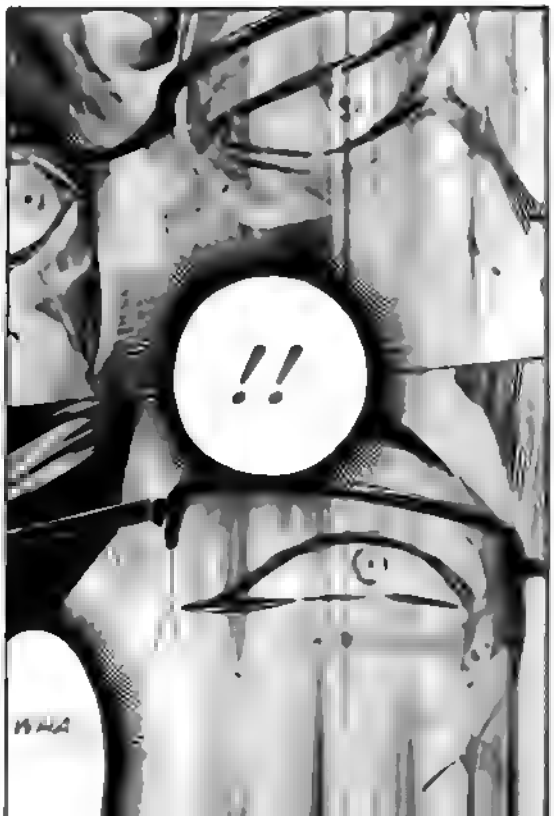
SFX. swish!



SFX: swish

ER SO
WITH THE FINGER LIKE THIS

THIS KIND OF KINETIC VISION IS TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE...


!!

SFX: whoosh Slash! Swish!

BORING
SFX: swish!

THIS MAN IS DEFINITELY MORE DANGEROUS THAN DANNO...!!
THIS IS BAD...
I HAVE TO KILL HIM...!!

!!
SFX: flap!

AH...?
SFX: slap!

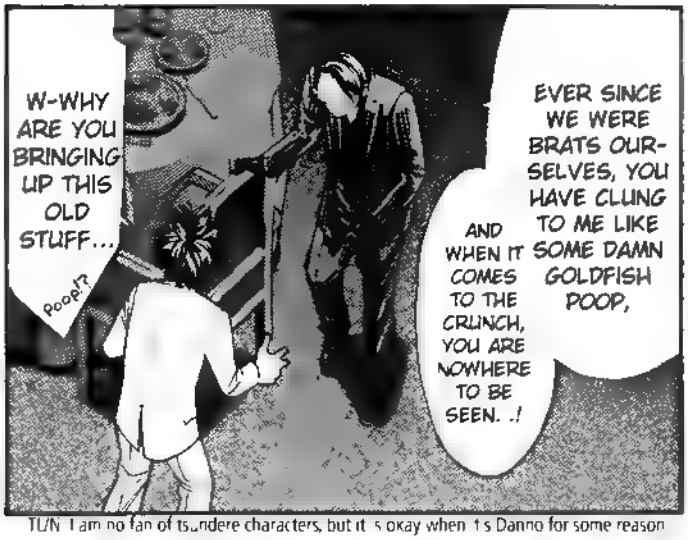
AH, SHIT!
WAI...
WAWAH!?

SFX: whamm!

SFX: thudl

TS/M: Punch /Kick

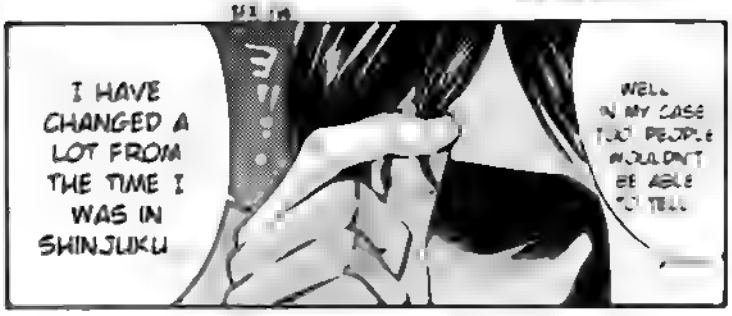
ARE YOU OKAY!? YOU WERE SHOT IN THE LEG!
DO... DO I LOOK OKAY TO YOU...?
PA!
DO... AGAIN!


W-WHY ARE YOU BRINGING UP THIS OLD STUFF...
Poop!?
AND WHEN IT COMES TO THE CRUNCH, YOU ARE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. .!
EVER SINCE WE WERE BRATS OUR-SELVES, YOU HAVE CLUNG TO ME LIKE SOME DAMN GOLDFISH POOP,

TL/N: I am no fan of ts..ndere characters, but it 's okay when 1 s Danno for some reason

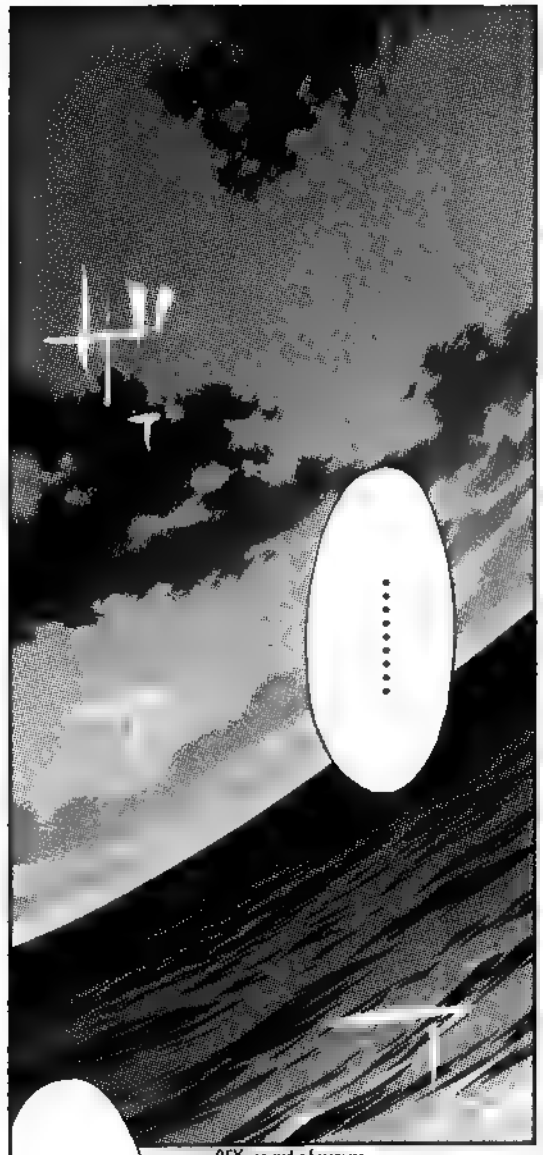
SFX: step...

SO THAT'S YOUR TRUE FACE, THEN?

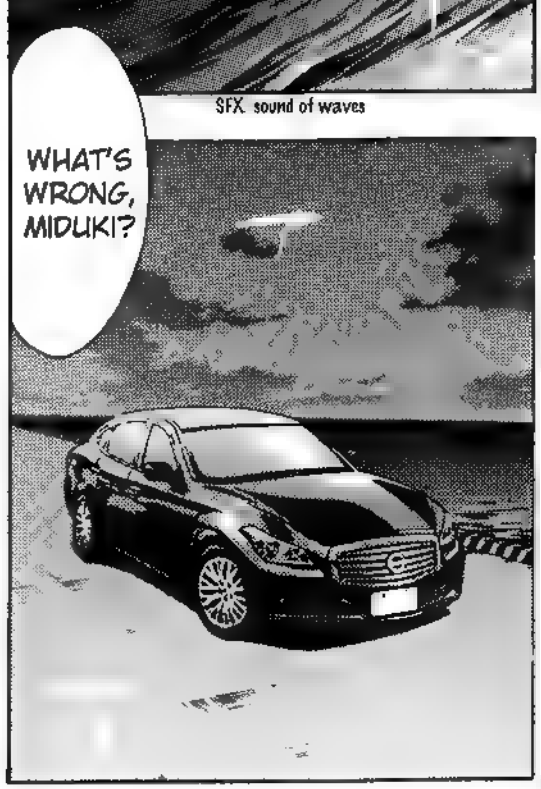

I HAVE CHANGED A LOT FROM THE TIME I WAS IN SHINJUKU
WELL IN MY CASE TOO PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL

!?

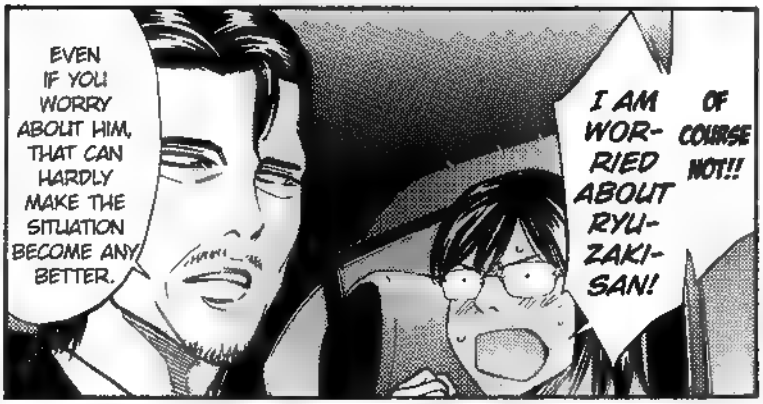
Y-YOU ARE...



SFX sound of waves



SFX: restless


EVEN IF YOU WORRY ABOUT HIM, THAT CAN HARDLY MAKE THE SITUATION BECOME ANY BETTER.
I AM WORRIED ABOUT RYU-ZAKI-SAN!
OF COURSE NOT!!

SFX. jolt!

SFX. snatch! Snap!

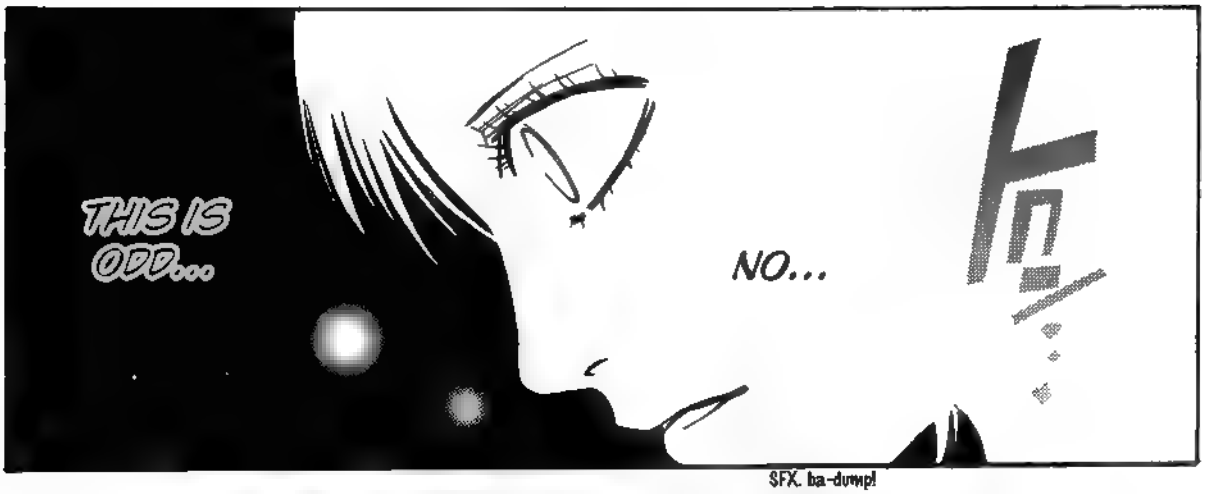
SFX. sound of waves

IT'S MOTOI-SAN FROM THE FORENSICS LAB...
Phone Call
Motoi-san
090 5693
.....
ER... HELLO.
AH, MIDUKI-CHAN?
SORRY TO CALL YOU SO LATE! ARE YOU STILL WORKING?
EEEER... I GUESS YOU CAN SAY I AM ON STAND-BY...
A WEEK AGO, I ENTRUSTED A TASK TO MOTOI-SAN FROM THE FORENSICS LAB...
!
THIS IS ABOUT THE NECKLACE YOU LEFT WITH ME...

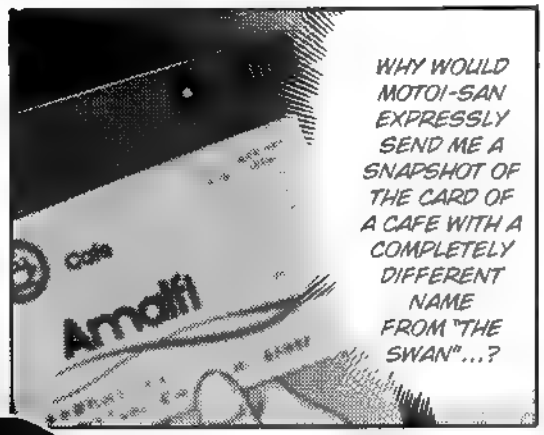
EH?
YOU WANT ME TO ANALYZE THIS NECKLACE?
THIS IS A PERSONAL BELONGING...
I... SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED YOU WITH IT, RIGHT... OF COURSE...
IS THIS A CONFISCATED ARTICLE RELATED TO SOME CASE?
HUH? BUT DIDN'T YOU AND RYUZAKI GO FROM THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU TO THE PERSONNEL AND TRAINING BUREAU, MIDUKI-CHAN...?
AH... WELL, THIS IS NOT RELATED TO WORK...
I'M SORRY TO ASK SUCH A WEIRD THING FROM YOU!
PLEASE DON'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT THIS...
SFX: how bew
SAY, HOW LONG IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO LOOK INTO IT?
... EH?

BOTH SCIENCE AND KINDNESS ARE PART OF MY PERSONAL CREED!
WHOOSH!
BANDO-SAN AND TO-MIKO-SAN ASKED ME, "PLEASE LEND YOUR SKILL TO RYUZAKI AND HIBINO", YOU SEE.
SFX sound of wind
I KNOW! THERE'S A CAFE NEAR THE HEADQUAR-TERS CALLED "THE SWAN".
I'LL BE THERE IN ONE HOUR!
EH?
BEEP
ER... NOW'S A BIT... I'M AT WORK...
BEEEE BEEEE
AAAAH... ABOUT THAT...
SO... ABOUT THE RE-SULTS...
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MO-TOI-SAN!
EH...?
TALKING ABOUT THIS OVER THE PHONE... YOU SEE,
COULDN'T WE MEET SOME-PLACE?

!
BLIMP!
FROM MOTOI-SAN AGAIN...
AN AT-TACHED FILE?
W-WHAT DO I DO, SHE HUNG UP...
I CAN'T MOVE NOW, THOUGH...
BEEP
Cafe
Amalfi
I'LL CALL HER AGAIN AND ASK...
DID MOTOI-SAN MAKE A MIS-TAKE...?
BUT IT'S NOT "THE SWAN", THOUGH...?
?
THE NAME OF A CAFE? IS THIS THE PLACE WHERE WE ARE GOING TO MEET?


THIS IS ODD...
NO...
トク!
SFX. ba-dump!

THE CALL WAS BEING OVERHEARD BY SOME-ONE...?
PERHAPS MOTOI-SAN...


Amalfi
WHY WOULD MOTOI-SAN EXPRESSLY SEND ME A SNAPSHOT OF THE CARD OF A CAFE WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT NAME FROM "THE SWAN"...?

SNAP!
WHAT... THE HELL IS GOING ON...?

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

W.A

PROOFREADER:

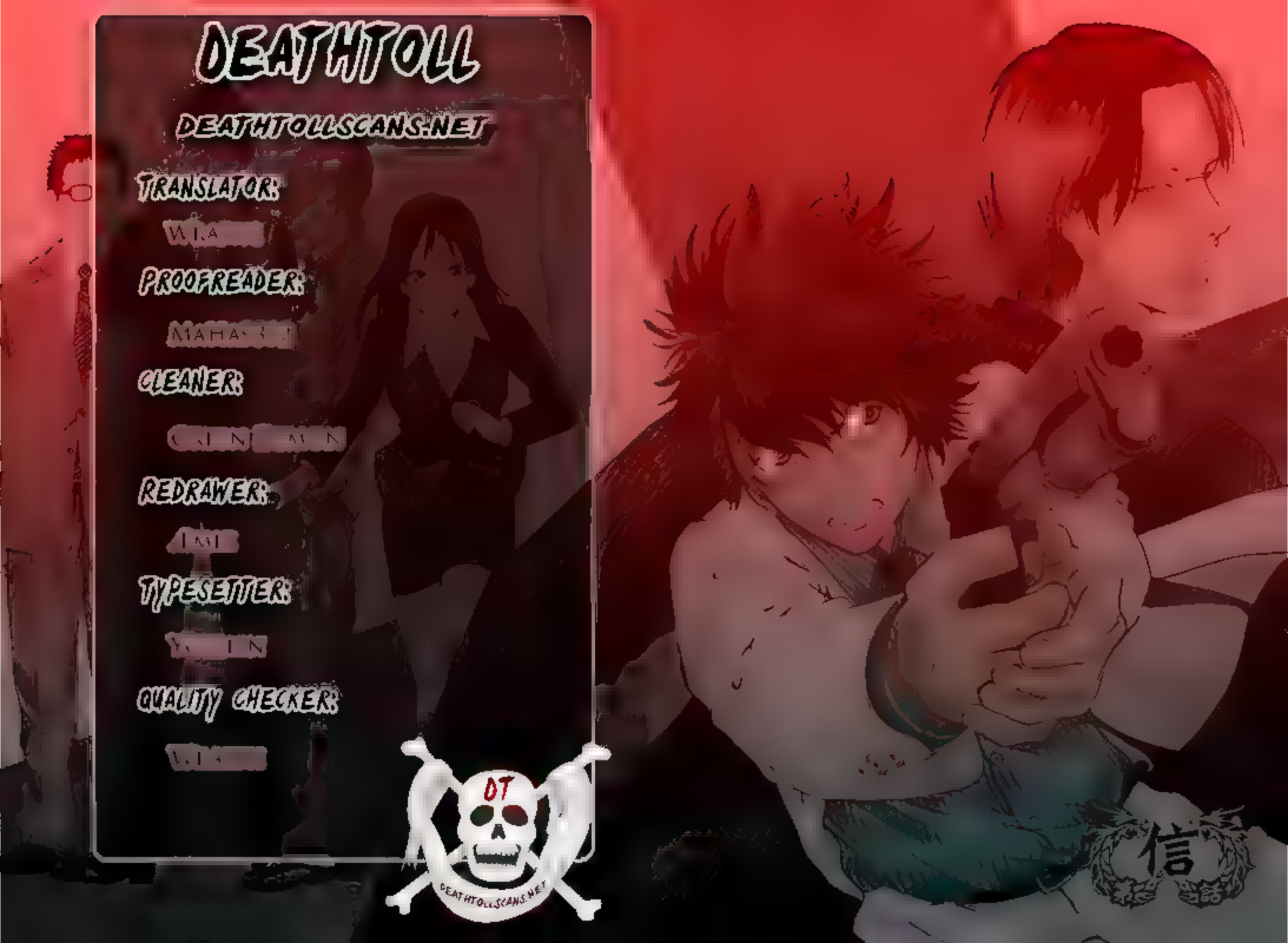
MAHA

CLEANER:

REDRAWER:

TYPESETTER:

QUALITY CHECKER:



ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

Redrawer needed for
The moon is beautiful tonight, but first, die!

This series doesn't normally appear in our release in the site because it wasn't a joint until recently. I had agreed to translate it for our good friends in Silent Sky, and the Death Toll name would be merely pegged to mine in the credits. If we don't find a redrawer for it and they do, that's how things are going to be.

Because right now, a redrawer or more are badly needed. The moon is beautiful... is among the harder series, and we're doing SFX for this one (though not all of them, of course). The workload is high, too, there are many redraws per chapter, some of which are very complex. And there's a backlog of five chapters, soon to be six. All are translated and proofed.

Silent Sky's Everath tells me they might have found someone who can do the easier redraws, which leaves us the harder ones. This means you will have to take our full test: https://goo.gl/qfnsc6 .

If you are experienced, I'm sorry, but I'm dumping the policy of letting applicants bypass the test just by submitting past samples. I've grown to believe, based in recent experiences, that being willing to do some kind of test proves a desirable mindset. But we can compromise by letting experienced applicants, instead of a standard test, redraw a chapter on probation. However, if you do choose this route, know that your redraws will not be automatically used unless they are found to be good. We will discard your work if we consider it lacking. It's high risk - having a full chapter discarded - high gain - being allowed to work on something that may actually be used. Your choice. Ah, the chapter may be un-typeset.

Redrawer still needed for Sprite!

I won't mince my words: ***Sprite***, with its combination of hand art and CG, plus the use of photographs to generate backgrounds, is one the hardest series for redrawing. Only aces among aces can do it. It has few redraws per chapter, but most are double spreads that need to be joined and extremely hard and time-consuming. Essentially, if you can redraw ***Sprite***, you can redraw anything in B&W that may be thrown at you.

We cannot accept anything less than someone who passes our full test, including the extra difficulty pages, with flying colours: https://goo.gl/qfnsc6 .

Incidentally, the whole of the next volume is translated and being proofed now. The next chapter is being typeset. So you can wait until you croak for new releases, unless someone applies.

You can post your application(s) at our recruitment thread at Batoto, or PM me (Kendama at Batoto, Wraith at deathtollscans.net), or post it in our home page in the Join Us section. Whatever. If you have the skills, we're willing to abide by your conditions.

The Internet, November 22, 2016,

Wraith
Death Toll Scanlations

IT FEELS LIKE A MILLION YEARS AGO. THE TIME WHEN I MESSED AROUND IN SHINJUKU WITH YOU TWO.
RIGHT? DANNO... RYUZAKI.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GENUINE DETECTIVE
NO.
I MIS-JUDGED YOU
.....

CHAPTER 95: SCARLET

CHONO-SAN...!!

TO BE A STOOGE OF "THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH", YOU HAVE FALLEN QUITE LOW,

DIDN'T BAT AN EYELID WHEN I MENTIONED "THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH"...
... CHO-NO-SAN

... I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I, CHONO-SAN,
IF YOU GET IN MY WAY,

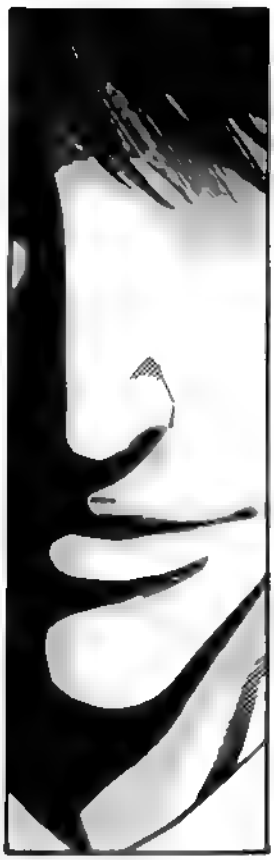
SFX: stomp!
I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU.

AND OUR GOAL, TOO...!?
IN OTHER WORDS, DOES HE KNOW EVERY-THING...!?
ABOUT THE MURDER CASE 17 YEARS AGO...

I'LL KILL YOU.
IF YOU PLAN ON BEING AN OBSTACLE IN THE PURSUIT OF OUR GOAL... AND I AM SERIOUS WHEN I SAY IT,

SFX: ba dump

DO YOU HAVE THE TIME TO HANG OUT WITH ME, TAT-CHAN?
... WHAT?



W-WAIT, TAT-CHAN!

A-ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT KILLING CHONO-SAN...?
REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH A THING !?

DEPUTY SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI HAS COME ABOARD THIS SHIP.
IN ORDER TO APPRE-HEND YOUR SUPERIOR, ABIKO KIRINO,
!!
SFX: ha dwup!
HE'S ALREADY ON THIS SHIP
THAT MAN...
HOWEVER, FOR THE MPD NUMBER TWO TO COME TO THE FRONT-LINES OF A MISSION LIKE THIS...
IT'S THE MOST ABSURD MANAGE-MENT SINCE THE MPD CAME INTO BEING, SERI-OUSLY...!

!

SFX turn

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE AMO BROTH-ERS.
THIS TIME, THE TARGET OF OUR RAID IS ONLY THE URABE HOUSE-HOLD... I HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH YOU.

THERE'S NO FUN IN CATCHING A WOUNDED PREY.
I'M LETTING YOU ESCAPE THIS ONE TIME, DANNO!

THE MAN WHO WAS BEHIND YUIKO-SENSEI'S MURDER,
"THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH"...!!

IKUO...
TAT-CHAN, LET'S HURRY...!
CHO-NO...
CHONO-SAN, I'LL ONLY TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME.
IF YOU GET IN THE WAY, I'LL REALLY KILL YOU...!
.....
GOLD WATCH'S REAL IDENTITY IS DEPUTY SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI ?
RUB RUB

8.00 PM. ABOUT TWO HOURS AFTER IKUO AND THE OTHERS BEGAN THEIR STRUGGLE.
SOME-WHERE IN THE METRO-POLITAN AREA
—AAH
... I ENDED UP IN FATHER'S DEBT...
YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE PLACE AND WILL RETURN FORTHWITH?
... YES, SIR...

DO AS YOU PLEASE.
... SIGH...
IT'S FINE, I SUPPOSE.

SFX
THERE'S THE EMA... I GOT FROM MO... TOI-SAN.
WELL, NO POINT IN MULLING OVER THAT NOW. THEN

SFX sniff
I'M ALMOST CRYING. NOTHING CHANGED IN ALL THESE YEARS! EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, HOW MUCH HE HURTS ME WITH THAT
WHAT, JUST WHAT IS THAT UNDISGUISED SIGH FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE HEART, AS IF YOU ARE DISGUSTED!?

!
THAT PLACE...

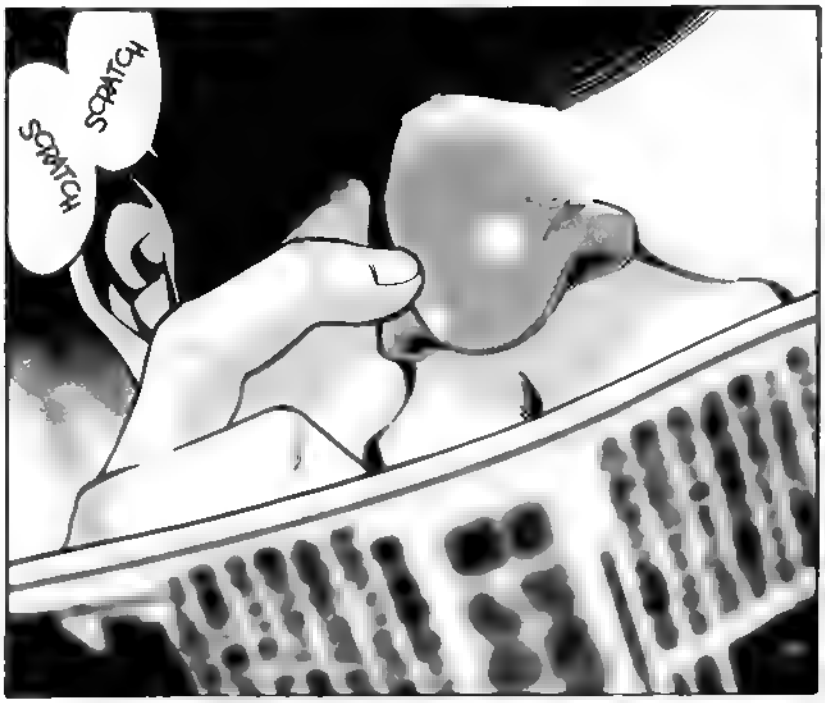
THAT'S THE NAME IS MOTOI-SAN ALREADY WAITING INSIDE I WONDER?

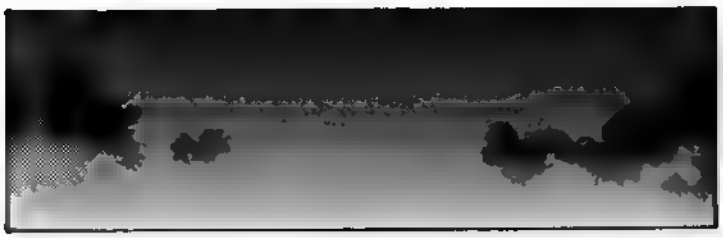
RIGHT AFTER THE PHONE CALL IN WHICH SHE APPOINTED THE PLACE FOR US TO MEET, SHE SENT A PICTURE WITH THE NAME OF ANOTHER CAFE...
Amalfi
NO WAY, ARE OUR COMMUNICATIONS BEING INTERCEPTED...?

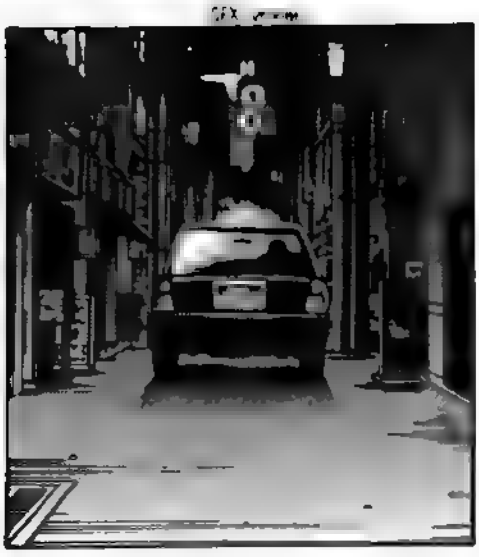
EEK!
SFX. screech
SFX. thud!
OW!
DAMN ...!!
L-LOOK WHERE YOU ARE DRIV-ING, YOU...
KYAH!!
MIDUKI-CHAN, QUICK!
GET IN, QUICK!

.....!
JUST GET IN AL-READY!
AH
ISN'T THIS THE PLACE YOU HAD INDICATED..
EH? HAHN? MOTOI-SAN...

SFX. pull!


SCRATCH
SCRATCH

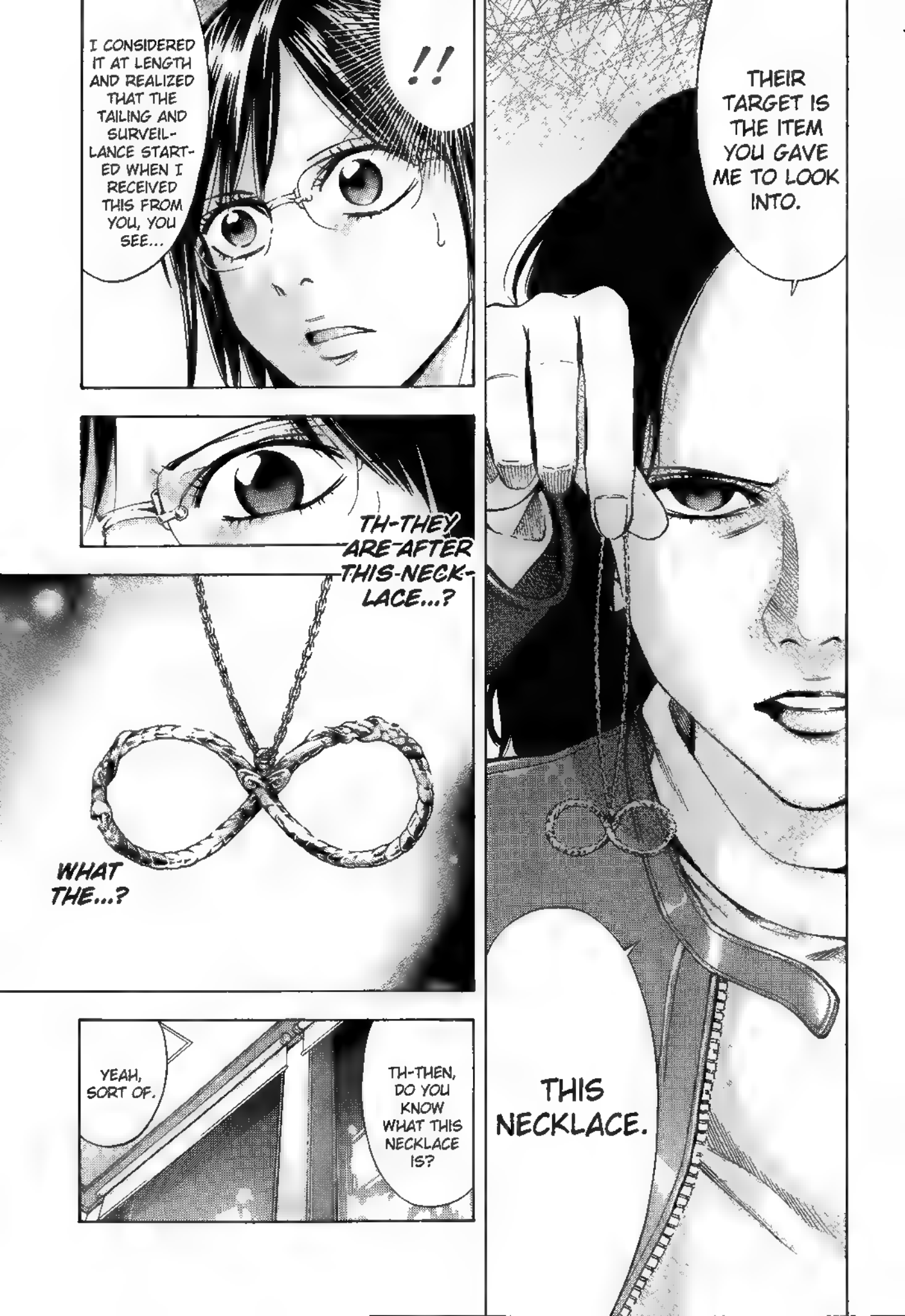


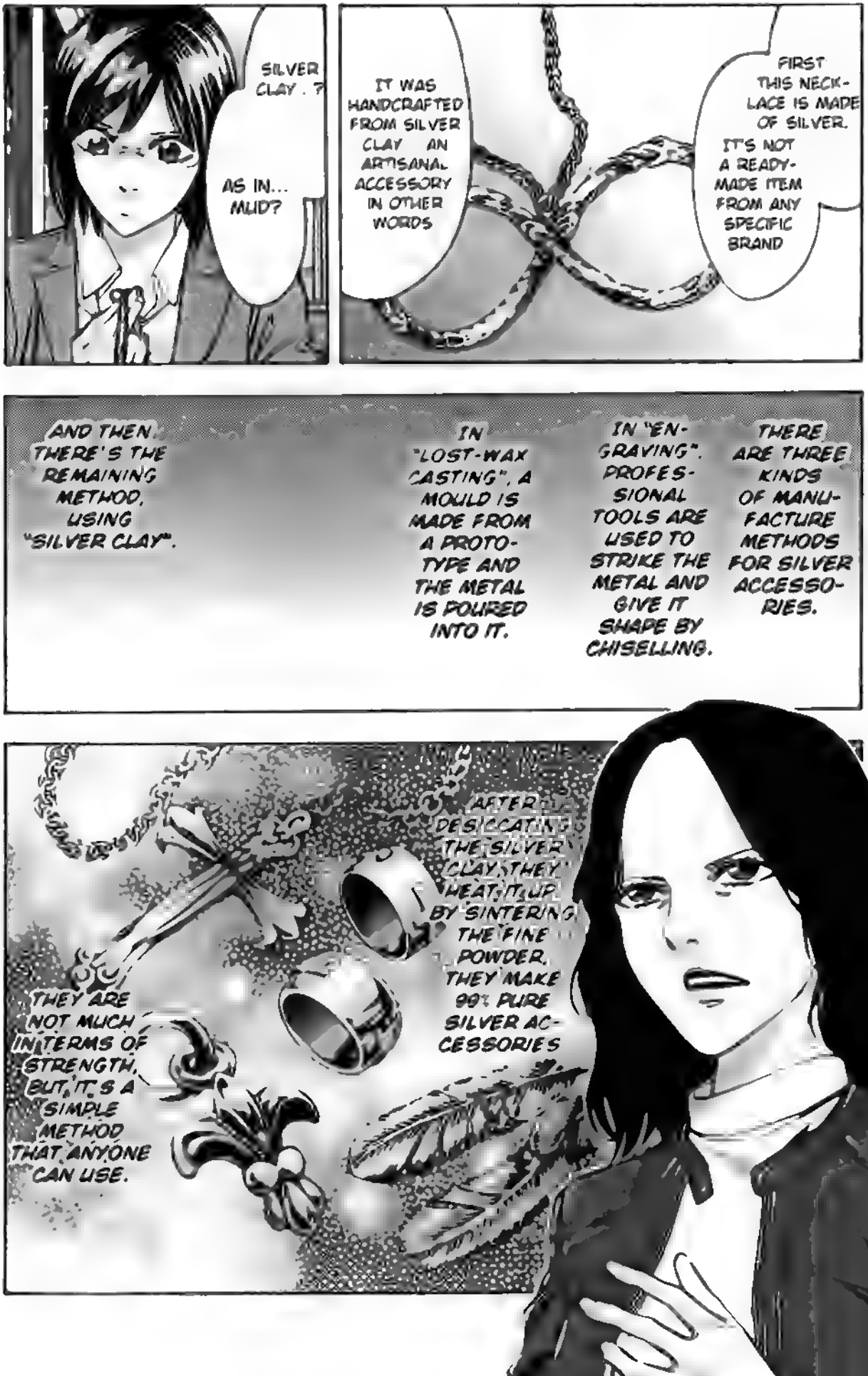


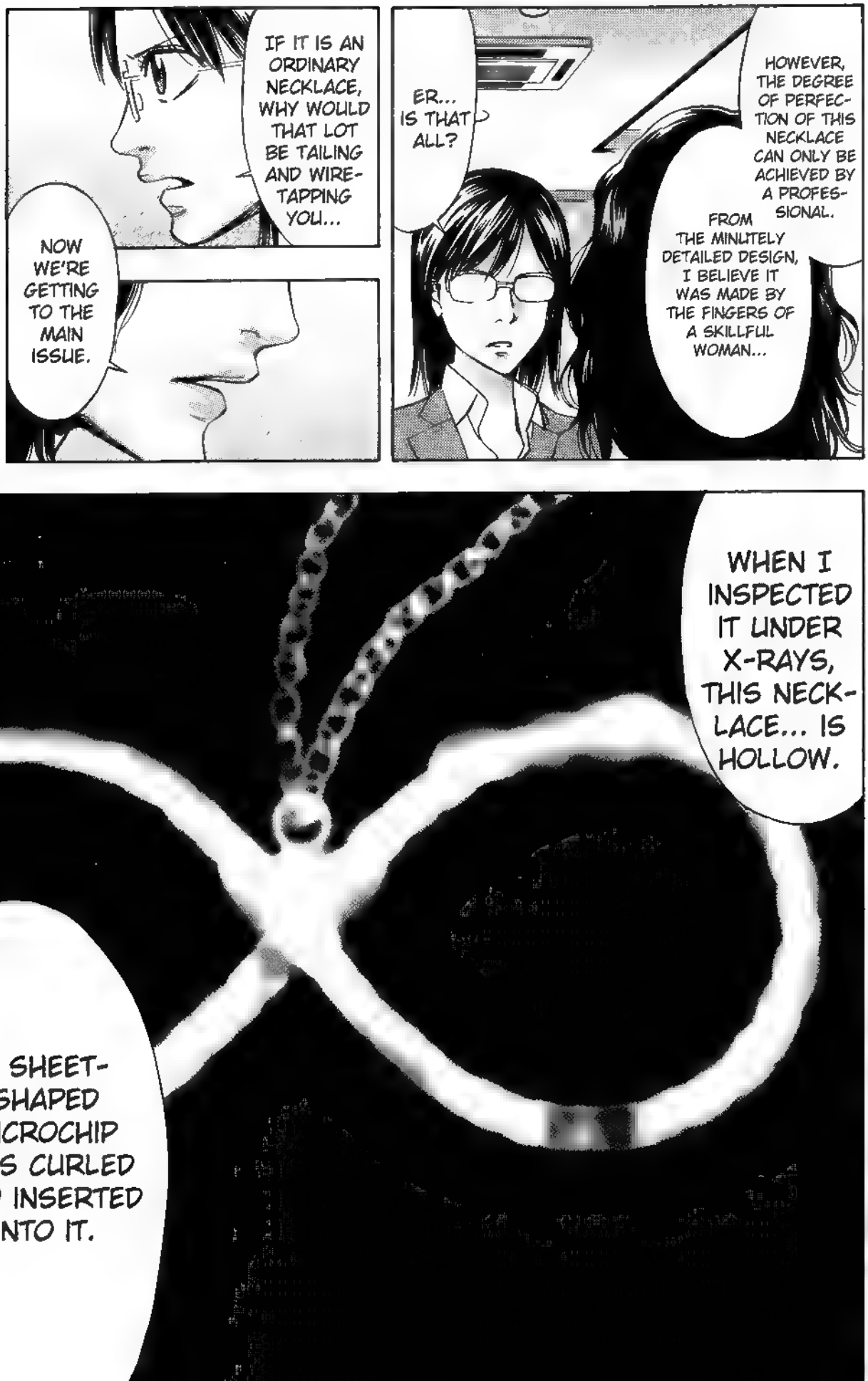
I'M SORRY, MIDUKI-CHAN!
NO, SERIOUSLY!
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR NOT HAVING GIVEN YOU AN EXPLANATION!
... WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS ABOUT?
I CAN'T MAKE HEAD OR TAIL OF IT...
NO, IT'S NOT ONLY YOU, I DON'T GET IT EITHER!
THE THING IS, THESE PAST FEW DAYS SOMEONE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING ME.
how should I put it
IN THE FORENSICS LAB AT THE HEADQUARTERS, TOO, I HAVE THIS BAD FEELING THAT SOMEONE HAS BEEN KEEPING ME UNDER SURVEILLANCE... YES, THAT'S IT.
FOLLOWING? SURVEILLANCE? WHO ON EARTH...
I FOR ONE SURE DON'T KNOW THAT, DO I?
!
THERE'S ONLY ONE DISTINCTIVE FEATURE...

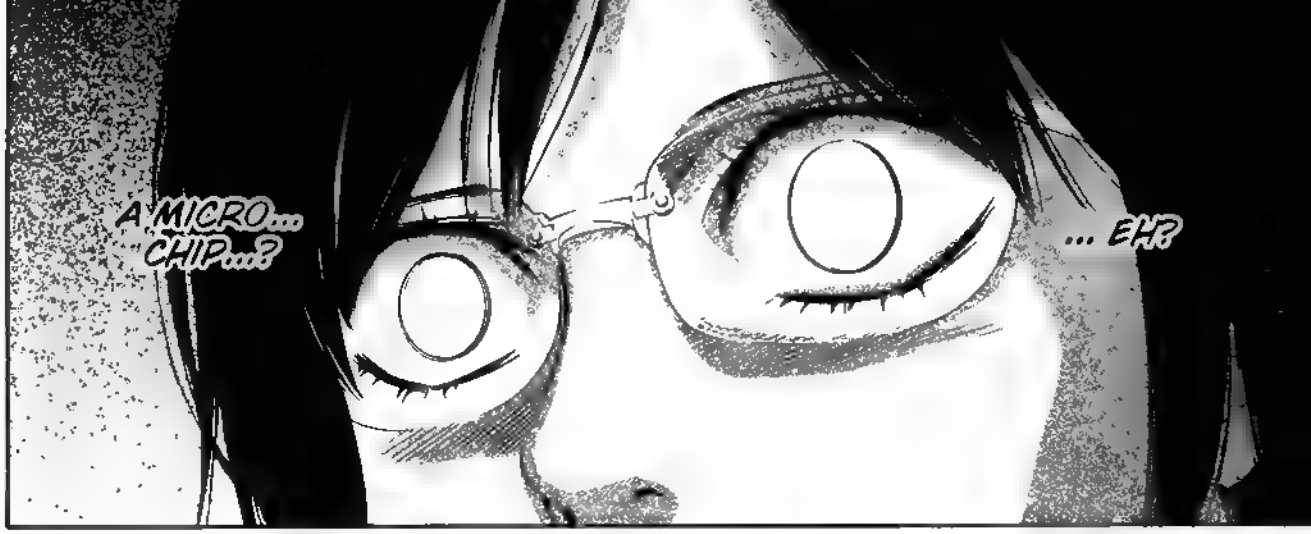
...s improbable or kitsch check out "Rosacea" and "Rhynophyma" in Wikipedia

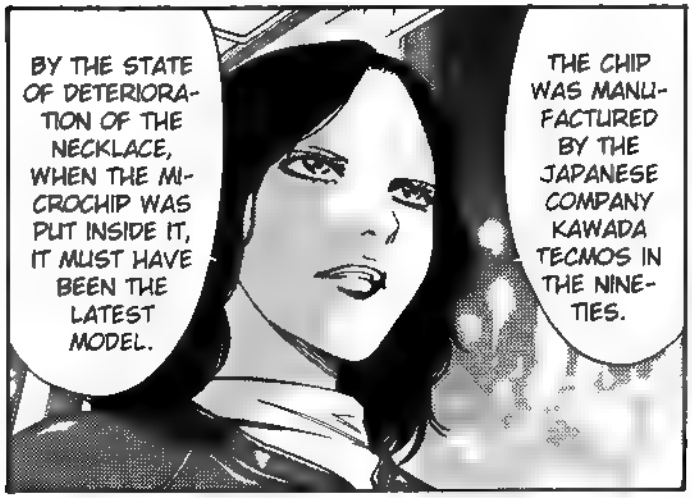
BUT WITH THIS, I WAS CONVINCED. OF WHAT THEIR TARGET IS.
SFX slip
WHAT THAT LOT IS AFTER IS NOT MYSELF...
SINCE THEY MADE SURE TO BE ON THE WATCH IN THE PLACE WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET YOU, MIDUKI-CHAN.
B-BUT EVEN THAT LOCATION WAS FOUND OUT, WHICH MEANS THEY EVEN INTERCEPTED THE PICTURE...!?
WHY WOULD THEY GO SO FAR
I KNOW, RIGHT?
AND THAT'S WHY I WAS ON STANDBY NEAR THE APPOINTED PLACE UNTIL YOU ARRIVED, MIDUKI-CHAN.

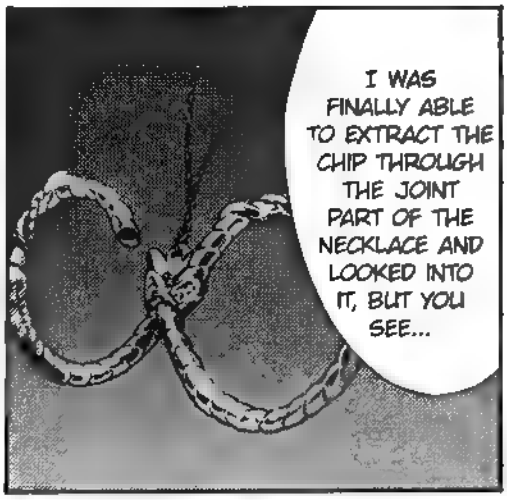

!!
I CONSIDERED IT AT LENGTH AND REALIZED THAT THE TAILING AND SURVEILLANCE STARTED WHEN I RECEIVED THIS FROM YOU, YOU SEE...
TH-THEY ARE AFTER THIS NECKLACE...?
WHAT THE...?
YEAH, SORT OF.
TH-THEN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS NECKLACE IS?
THEIR TARGET IS THE ITEM YOU GAVE ME TO LOOK INTO.
THIS NECKLACE.

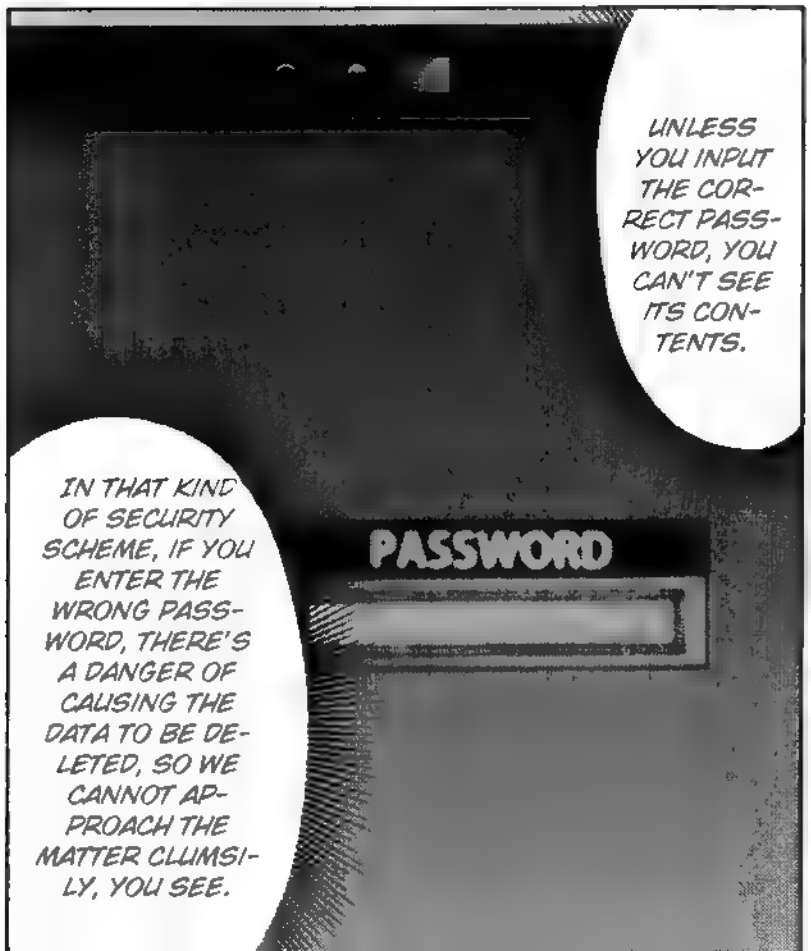

SILVER CLAY . ?
AS IN... MUD?
IT WAS HANDCRAFTED FROM SILVER CLAY AN ARTISANAL ACCESSORY IN OTHER WORDS
FIRST THIS NECK-LACE IS MADE OF SILVER.
IT'S NOT A READY-MADE ITEM FROM ANY SPECIFIC BRAND
AND THEN THERE'S THE REMAINING METHOD, USING "SILVER CLAY".
IN "LOST-WAX CASTING", A MOULD IS MADE FROM A PROTO-TYPE AND THE METAL IS POURED INTO IT.
IN "EN-GRAVING", PROFES-SIONAL TOOLS ARE USED TO STRIKE THE METAL AND GIVE IT SHAPE BY CHISELLING.
THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF MANU-FACTURE METHODS FOR SILVER ACCESSO-RIES.
AFTER DESICCATING THE SILVER CLAY, THEY HEAT IT UP BY SINTERING THE FINE POWDER. THEY MAKE 99% PURE SILVER AC-CESSORIES
THEY ARE NOT MUCH IN TERMS OF STRENGTH, BUT, IT'S A SIMPLE METHOD THAT ANYONE CAN USE.


IF IT IS AN ORDINARY NECKLACE, WHY WOULD THAT LOT BE TAILING AND WIRE-TAPPING YOU...
NOW WE'RE GETTING TO THE MAIN ISSUE.
ER... IS THAT ALL?
HOWEVER, THE DEGREE OF PERFECTION OF THIS NECKLACE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY A PROFESSIONAL.
FROM THE MINUTELY DETAILED DESIGN, I BELIEVE IT WAS MADE BY THE FINGERS OF A SKILLFUL WOMAN...
WHEN I INSPECTED IT UNDER X-RAYS, THIS NECKLACE... IS HOLLOW.
A SHEET-SHAPED MICROCHIP WAS CURLED AND INSERTED INTO IT.


A MICRO... CHIP...?
... EH?

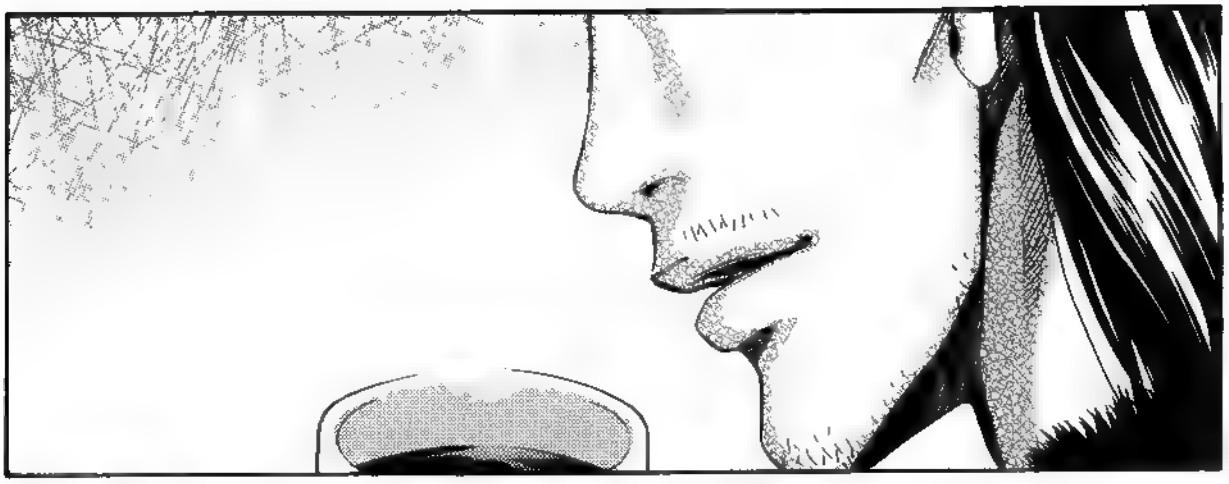

BY THE STATE OF DETERIORATION OF THE NECKLACE, WHEN THE MICROCHIP WAS PUT INSIDE IT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE LATEST MODEL.
THE CHIP WAS MANUFACTURED BY THE JAPANESE COMPANY KAWADA TECMOS IN THE NINETIES.

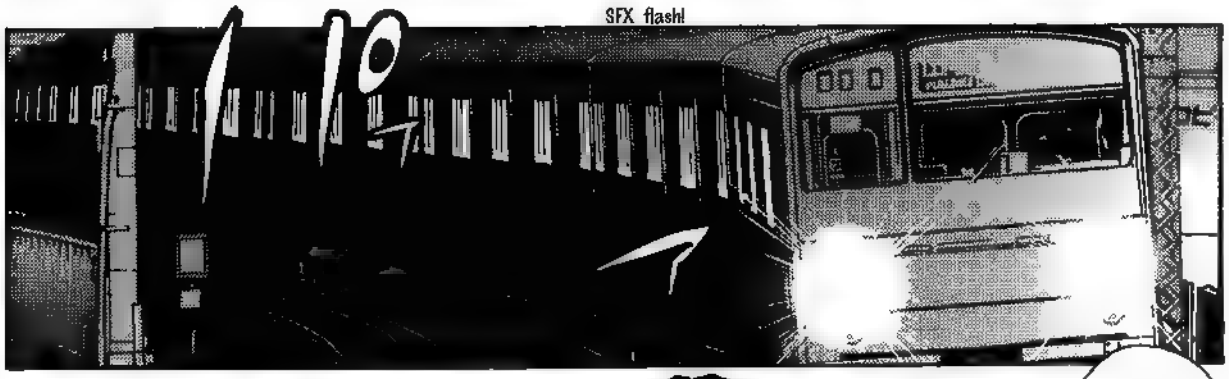

I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO EXTRACT THE CHIP THROUGH THE JOINT PART OF THE NECKLACE AND LOOKED INTO IT, BUT YOU SEE...


IN THAT KIND OF SECURITY SCHEME, IF YOU ENTER THE WRONG PASSWORD, THERE'S A DANGER OF CAUSING THE DATA TO BE DELETED, SO WE CANNOT APPROACH THE MATTER CLUMSILY, YOU SEE.
PASSWORD
UNLESS YOU INPUT THE CORRECT PASSWORD, YOU CAN'T SEE ITS CONTENTS.

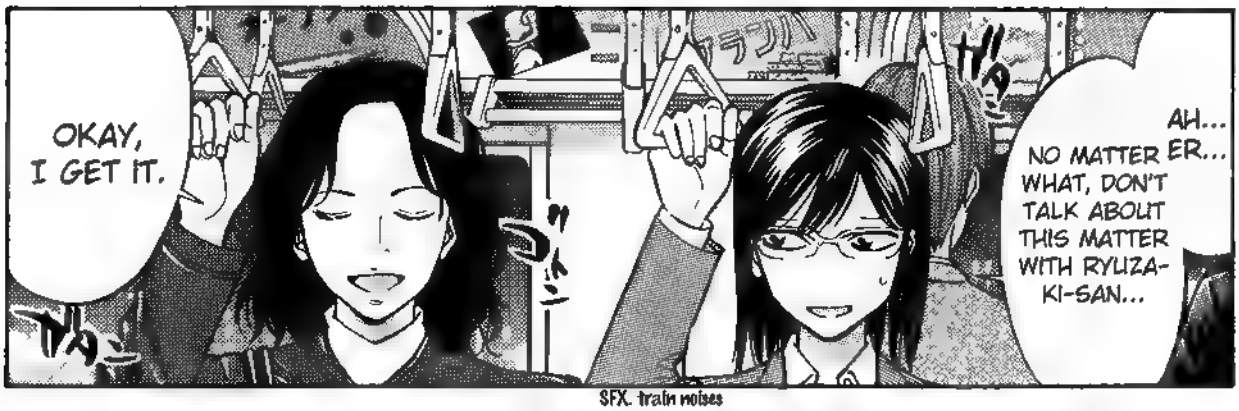
I HAVE BEEN BURNING SUGAR IN MY BRAIN OVER THAT!
TH-THEN, WHAT'S IN THE CHIP!?

THIS IS WHAT THEY ARE TARGET-ING ?
I DON'T KNOW WHO THOSE PEOPLE ARE BUT
A MICRO-CHIP
... YOU ARE RIGHT...
FIRST OF ALL, IN ORDER TO PREVENT SOMEONE FROM STEAL-ING IT, HOW ABOUT YOU CARRY IT ON URSELF?
I HAVE A FEELING THAT I MUST PROTECT IT...!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DATA WITHIN THIS ARE... BUT
ARE SOME-HOW RELAT-ED TO RYU-ZAKI-SAN'S PAST...!
IN ANY EVENT, THE DATA IN THIS...

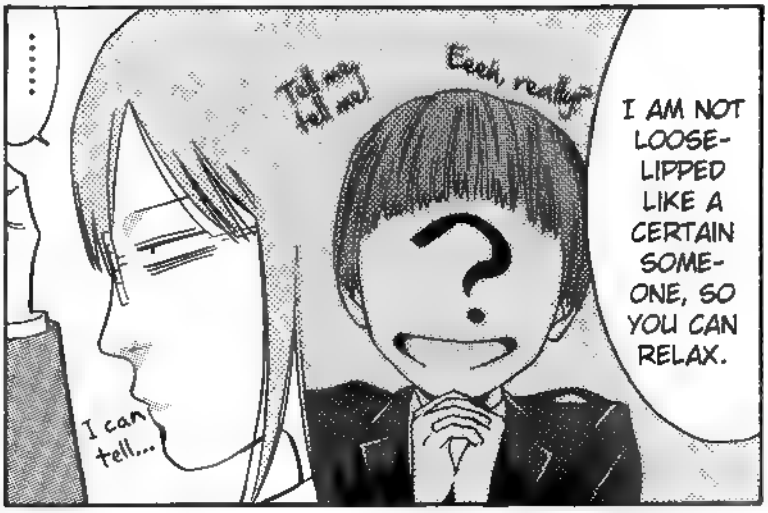



SFX: flash!

SFX: train noises
LET'S THE THREE OF US, RYUZAKI INCLUDED, DRINK TOGETHER SOME TIME! I'VE FOUND A GOOD, CHEAP RESTAURANT, YOU SEE.
IF RYUZAKI IS THERE, WE CAN GET OURSELVES DRUNK WITHOUT WORRIES!
HAHA...
I'M SORRY, MIDUKI-CHAN.
I ENDED UP FORCING YOU TO LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK. WILL YOU BE OKAY?
EEEE... IT'S FINE...
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH DAD IS ALREADY BROKEN, ANYWAY ...



SFX. train noises



YOU'VE BEEN FOUND OUT!
NO USE HIDING IT.
EH!?
NONONO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!

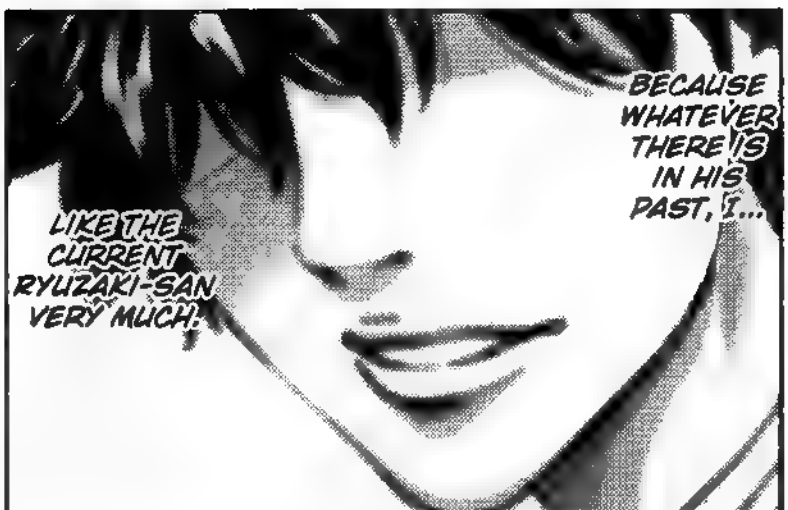
I UNDER-STOOD. JUST BY LOOKING, YOU SEE.
HMMM
BACK IN THE FAREWELL PARTY FOR BANDO-SAN AND MISHIMA-SAN.

UGH
YOU'RE DIRTY AROUND THE MOUTH!
WAIT!
ANYBODY WOULD NOTICE THAT.
YOU CHANGED COMPLETELY ONLY WHEN YOU WERE TALKING TO RYUZAKI, MIDUKI-CHAN.

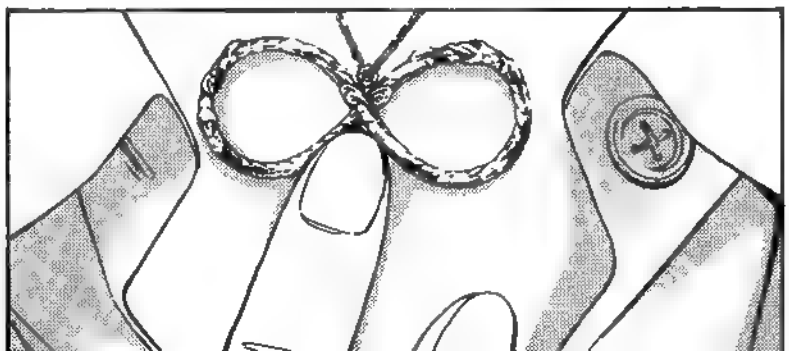
SFX: Nnh
AH.
I UNDER-STOOD ANOTHER THING.
A-AM I THAT EASY TO UNDER-STAND...?

WON'T IT BE GOOD TO RELY ON RYUZAKI MORE?
... EH?

TS/N Critical hit! It was super effective!



SFX: clank, clank



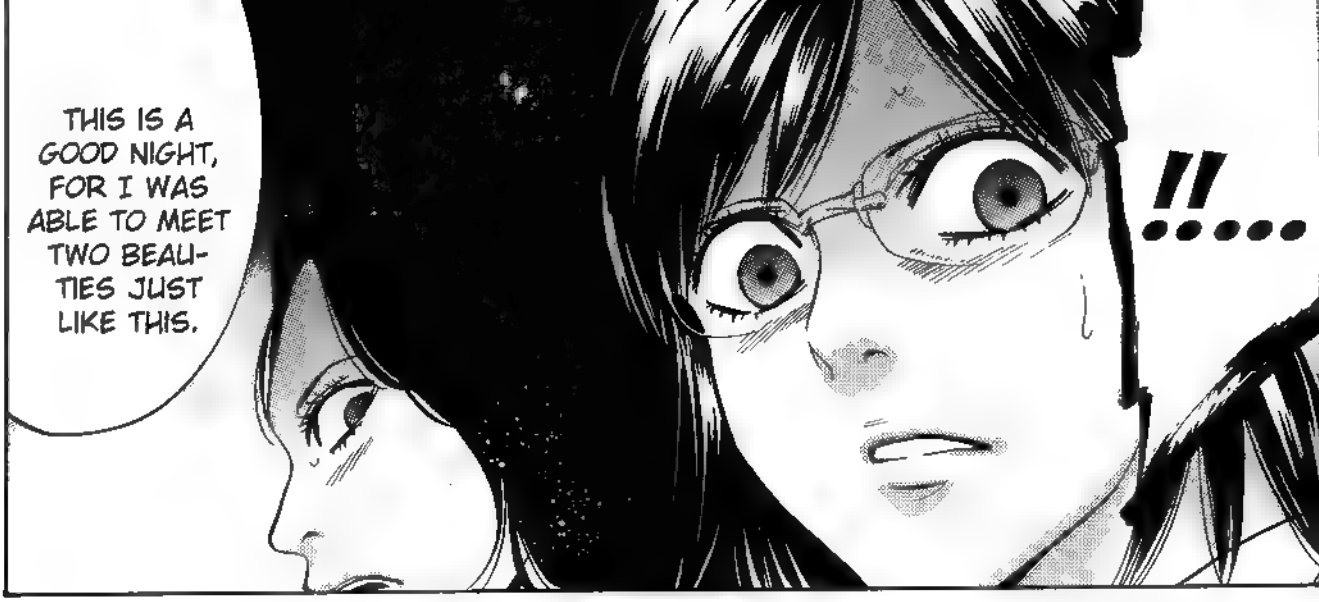
T/N Weeeeell she said daisuki, which could mean "love" The only unequivocal verb for that in Japanese is aisu But the Japanese are not all that straight about this kind of thing, so it's not used that much In this case, I opted for the most conservative translation possible

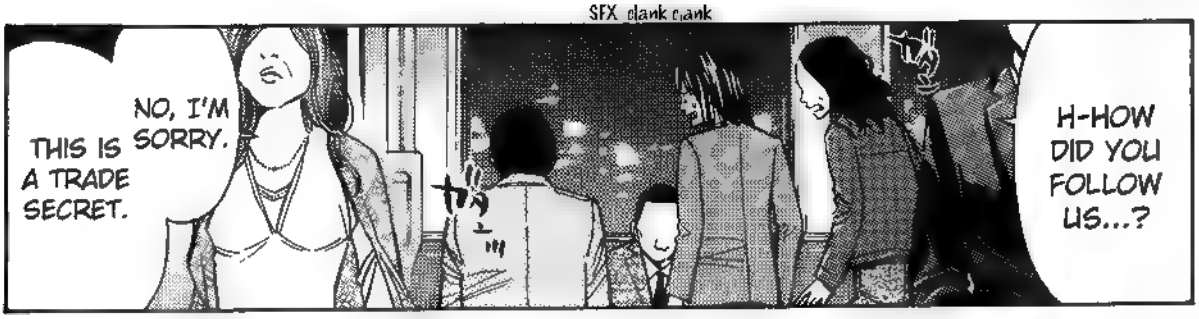
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

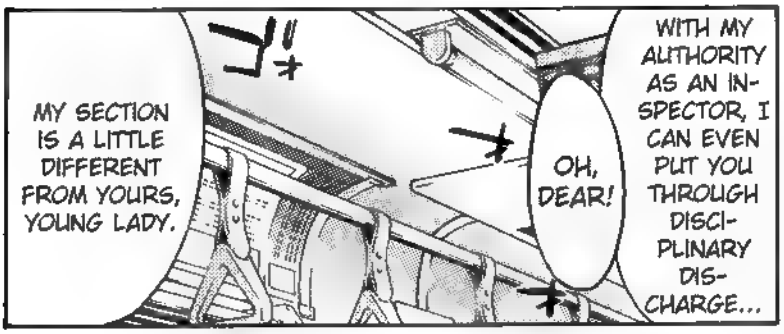
SFX: clink clink

IF I APOLOGIZE FRANKLY FOR TAKING HIS POSSESSION WILLY-NILLY, HE WILL FORGIVE ME, RIGHT...!
I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO RETURN THIS NECKLACE TO RYUZAKI-SAN.

GOOD EVENING.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

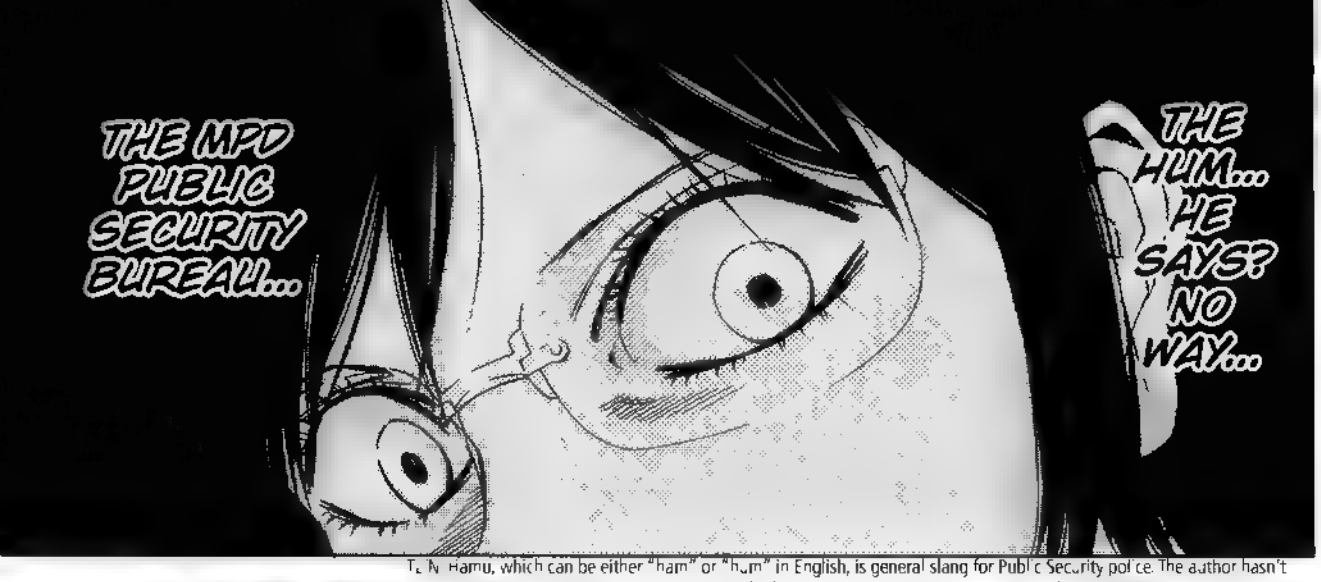

THIS IS A GOOD NIGHT, FOR I WAS ABLE TO MEET TWO BEAUTIES JUST LIKE THIS.
!!....


SFX clank clank
NO, I'M SORRY. THIS IS A TRADE SECRET.
H-HOW DID YOU FOLLOW US...?

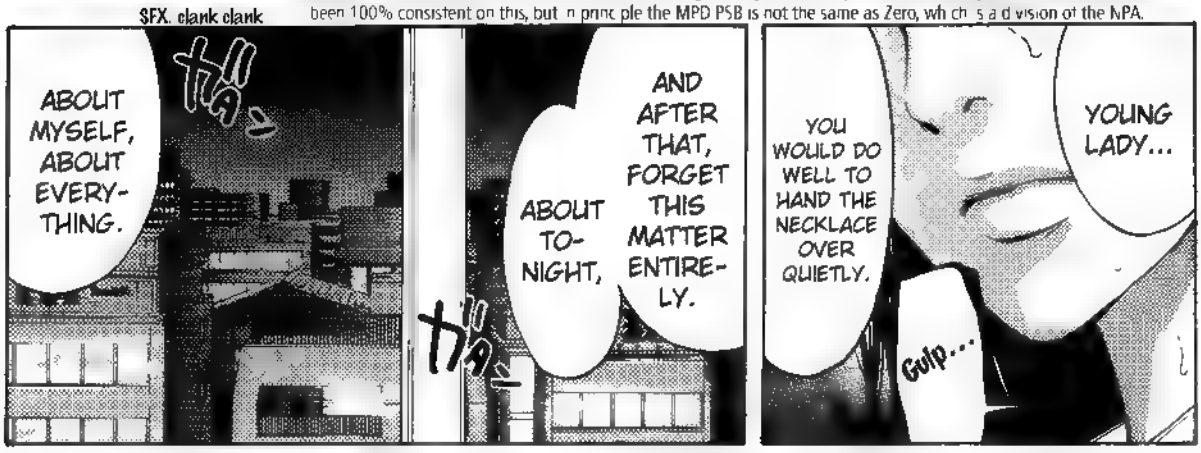

MY SECTION IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM YOURS, YOUNG LADY.
OH, DEAR!
WITH MY AUTHORITY AS AN INSPECTOR, I CAN EVEN PUT YOU THROUGH DISCIPLINARY DISCHARGE...

YOU WERE KEEPING ME UNDER SURVEILLANCE EVEN IN THE HEAD OFFICE! I KNOW IT!
A TRADE... IS IT?
THAT MEANS... YOU ARE IN THE SAME COMPANY AS WE, DOESN'T IT?

SAYING THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
THE "HUM".



T. N. Hamu, which can be either "ham" or "hum" in English, is general slang for Public Security police. The author hasn't been 100% consistent on this, but in principle the MPD PSB is not the same as Zero, which is a division of the NPA.


SFX: clank clank
ABOUT MYSELF, ABOUT EVERY-THING.
ABOUT TO-NIGHT,
AND AFTER THAT, FORGET THIS MATTER ENTIRE-LY.
YOUNG LADY...
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO HAND THE NECKLACE OVER QUIETLY.
Gulp...

AS MANY TIMES AS IT HAPPENS... GOT IT?
FORGET ABOUT IT.
AND... IF, BY ANY CHANCE, YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT RESEMBLES A RECOL-LECTION... THAT TIME, TOO,

!
SFX: dash, dash!

EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE SUCH AN EXCELLENT CAREERIST, TO THINK YOU WOULD BE SUCH A FOOL...
... HAAH,

!
WHY?!
WHY ARE THE PSB, THE STARS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE...!?
SFX. dash!

AH, GIVE ME A BREAK.
WE DON'T COLLECT OVER-TIME PAY FOR OUR BE-HIND-THE-SCENES WORK, AND YET...

!!
!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT NECK-LACE!?
SFX. clank, clank!
SFX. clank, clank!
WE'RE COR-NERED...!!
THIS IS BAD...
SFX: slip!
SHALL WE GET OFF ON THE NEXT STATION...?

PERVERTS ARE THE WORST, IN MY OPINION...
FUEH?
.....
AH!

KYAAAAAH!! A PEEEERVEEERT!!
WHAT IS THIS OLD LECHER DOING!?
What? A pervert?
No way, damn...

UWAH! I'M AGAINST VIOLENCE!
WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE!? WE ARE THE MPD...
YOU BASTARD! GET YOUR HANDS OFF HIM!

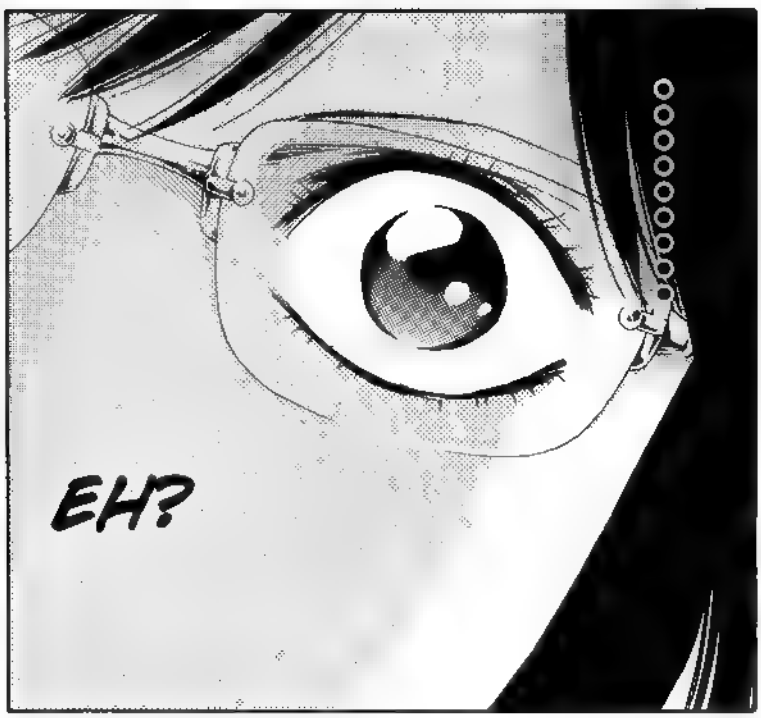
WAI... WHA...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LOOK EVERY-ONE, THIS OLD MAN IS A PER-VERT!
SOMEONE CAPTURE A VIDEO AND UPLOAD IT TO YOU-TUBE!

DON'T GET IN OUR WAY! WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MIS-SION!
JUST BEHAVE AND GET OFF ON THE NEXT STA-TION...
ARE YOU WITH HIM?

MIDUKI-CHAN, NOW'S OUR...
NEXT STATION... KOENJI. NEXT STATION... KOENJI.
EXIT THROUGH THE RIGHT SIDE...
SFX. brakes!
SFX. pull!
EH
KYAH...
DISGUST-ING!
A PER-VERTED MIS-SION!? CUT THE CRAP!!
I'M SAYING WE'RE NOT PERVERTS! WE'RE THE POLI-
SFX. crowd noises
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!
DON'T ACT ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY, YOU FUCK-ING PER-VERTS!!
GET THEM!
It's the first time I've seen a pervert
SFX. panting

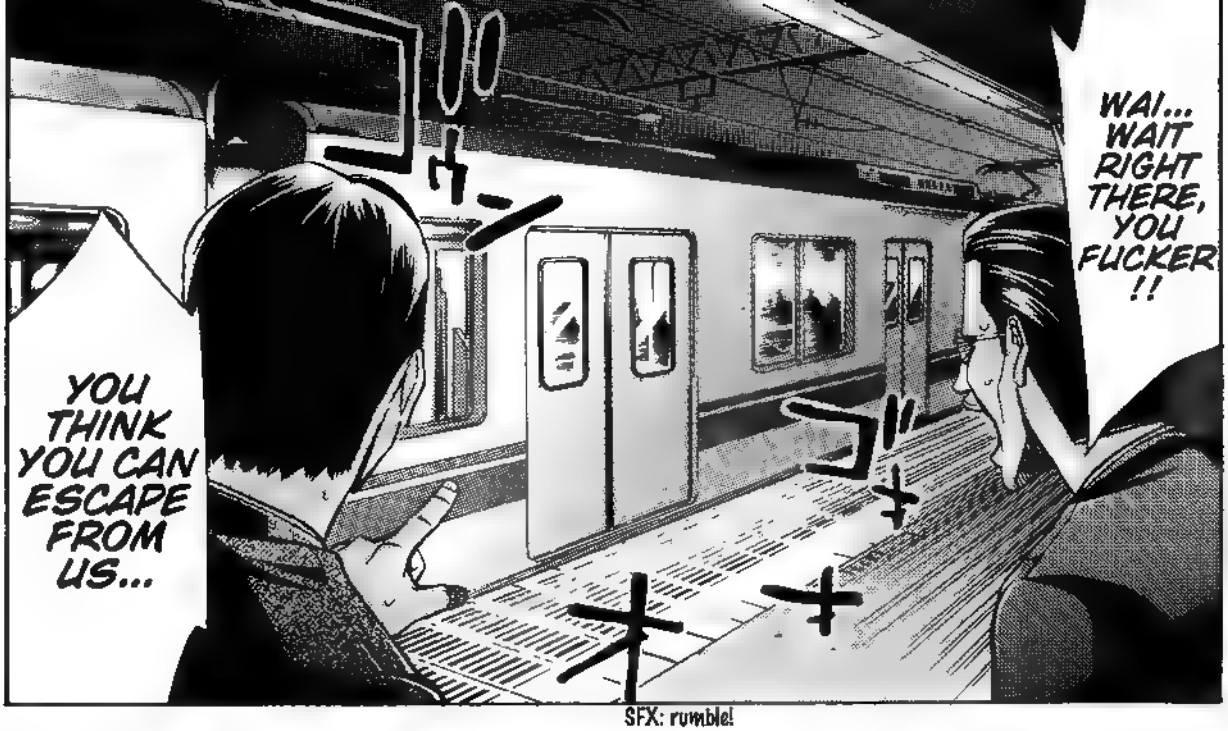
SO,
LET'S GO ♡

SLIDE-

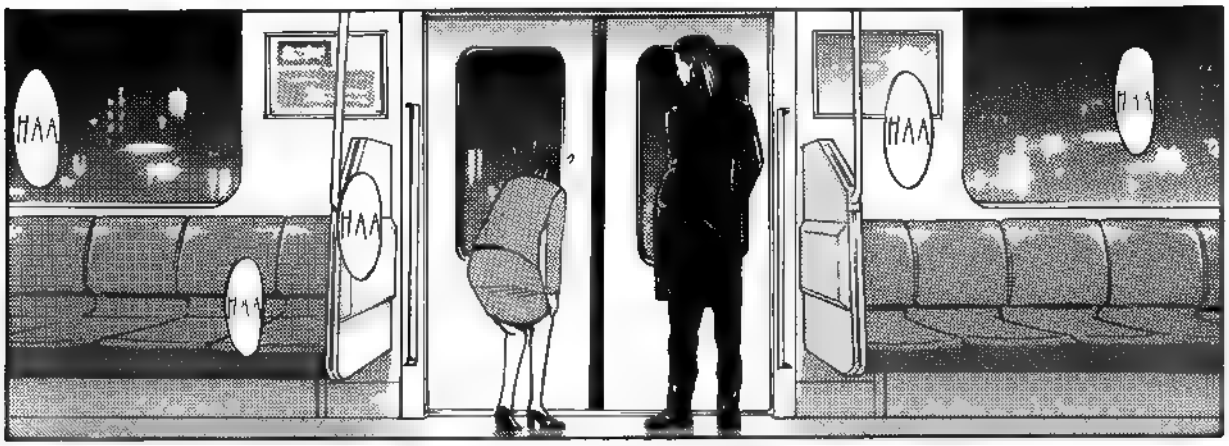

EH?

WE'RE SAFE!

CLACK!


WAI... WAIT RIGHT THERE, YOU FUCKER!!
YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM US...

SFX: rumble!


HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

MOTOI-SAN! MOTOI-SAN WAS...
GASP!

I HOPE THEY DON'T DO ANY-THING TO HER, BUT...
I LEFT HER INSIDE THE TRAIN CAR AND ES-CAPED...

MY BAD, I DRAGGED YOU TOO STRONG-LY.
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU AREN'T HURT, ARE YOU?
HAA
HAA
HAA

SFX: clank, clank!

SFX: blah blah blah

IN SHORT, I LOVE ALL WOMEN!
.....
AH, NO, THAT'S A LIE. EVEN IF THEY ARE FUGLIES, I SAVE THEM! ARE YOU A FEMI-NIST? LADIES FIRST? WOM-AN'S LIB? HUH?
I AM IN-DEBTED FIRST TO ALL CUTE GIRLS! THAT'S MY POLICY!

SFX: reach...

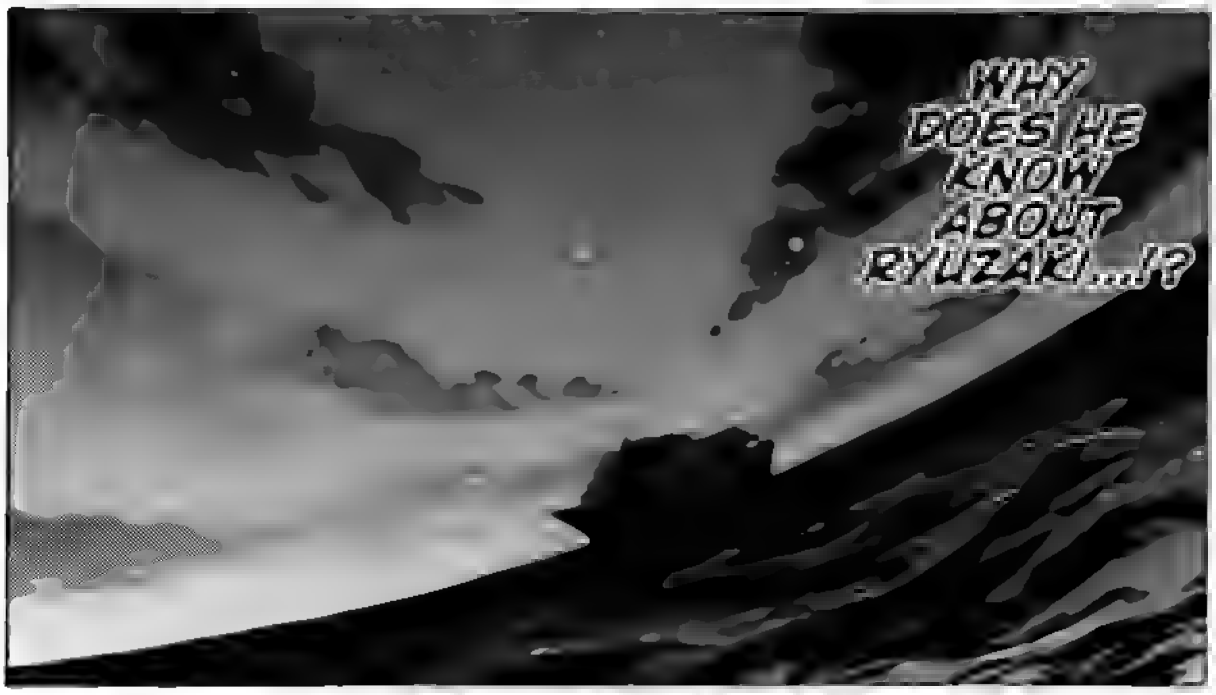
TS/N Out of the fire

THIS NECK-LACE... WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
DON'T TELL ME...

THIS IS RYUZAKI IKUO'S... ISN'T IT?
Bingo?

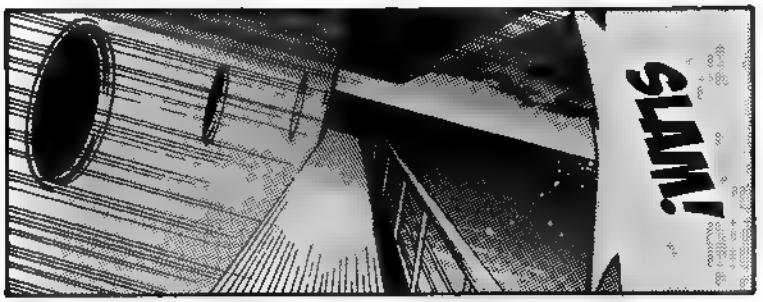
WHA...
!!

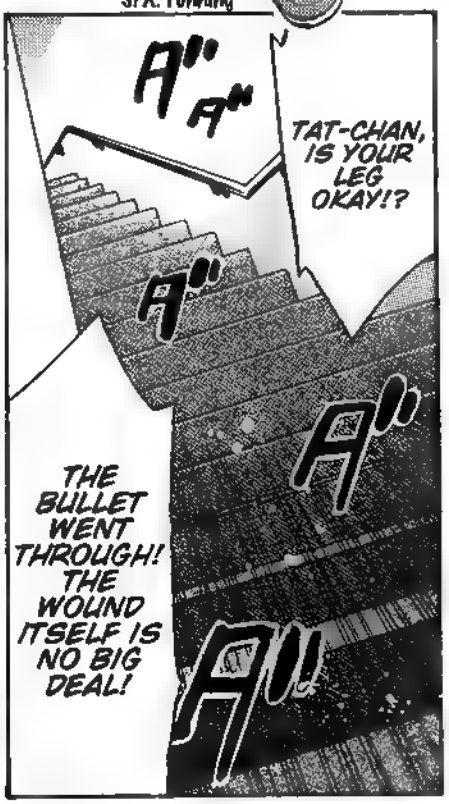
WHAT THE...!?
WHAT IS THIS FELLOW...!?


WHY DOES HE KNOW ABOUT RYUZAKI...!?

A"
A!!

SFX: running





SFX: whoosh!

!
SFX: turn!
!
WHY, AREN'T YOU LATE, DANNO...!
AND THE SHORTIE WHO IS YOUR PAL CAME, TOO.
SFX: step step step
AHN?
I'M NOT SO WEAK TO DESERVE YOUR CONCERN!
MILADY... ARE YOU UNHARMED...?
I HAVE BEEN IMMERSED IN SOME FEELINGS.
AS I, TOO, HAVE MET A FRIEND FROM OLD TIMES, YOU SEE.

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

W.A

PROOFREADER:

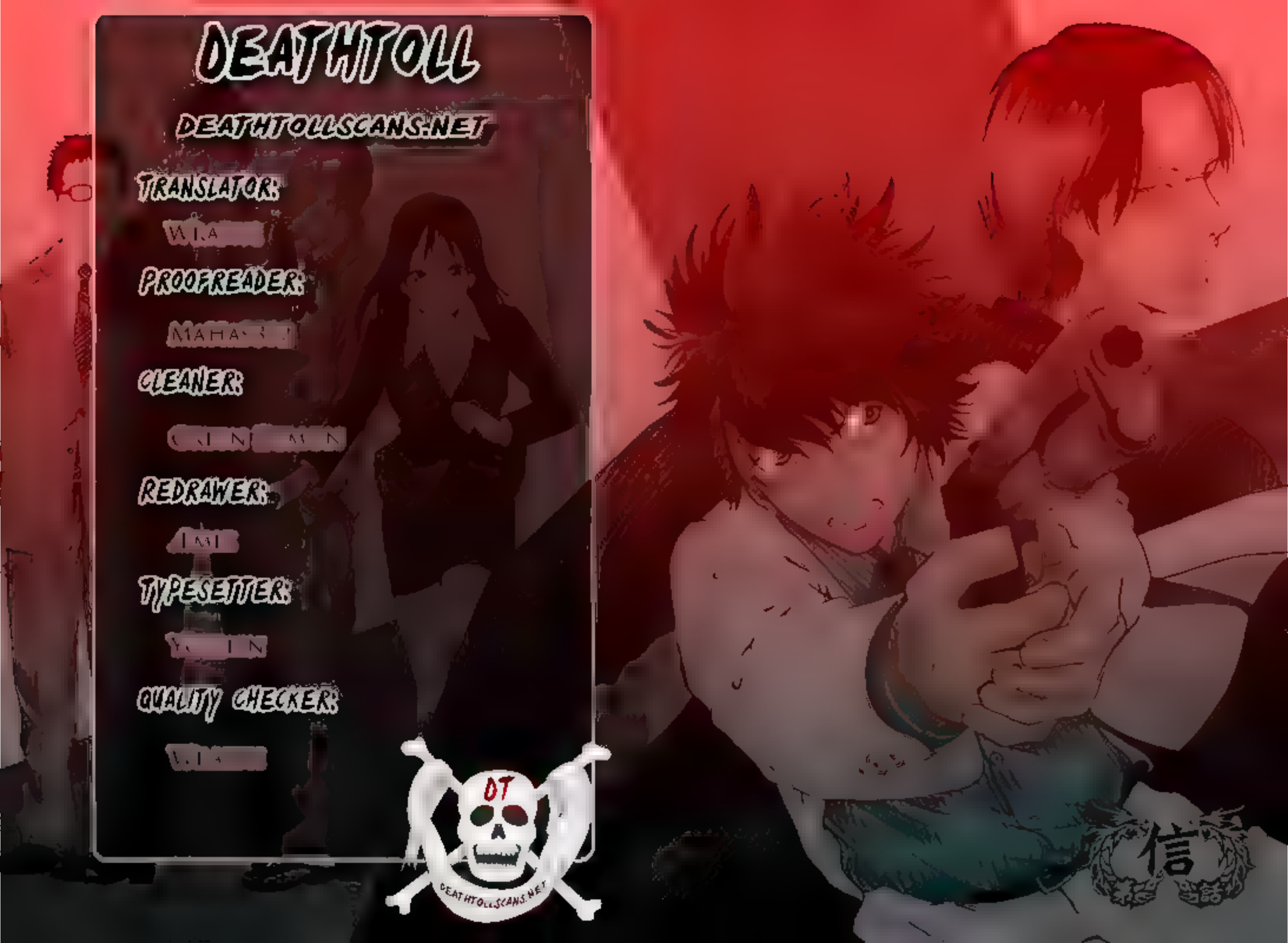
MAHA

CLEANER:

REDRAWER:

TYPESETTER:

QUALITY CHECKER:



ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

One redrawer needed, several translators WANTED!

You may have seen a recent solo, anonymous release of ***Saru Lock***, a series we dropped quite a while ago. Well, we happen to be acquainted with that lone wolf, and they are translating it from French. They will keep doing it and we have nothing against that, but they said if we find a redrawer good enough for that series, and willing to work at a steady pace of about one chapter per week (chapters are not long, about 20 pages tops), they will join us and resume the series as a project of ours. Otherwise, they will keep working on it with their simple redraws.

So, if you would like to increase the quality of the ***Saru Lock*** releases, feel free to take our full test (https://goo.gl/qfnsc6), and you don't need to do the extra difficulty pages this time. Instructions for submitting an application are the same as for translators, given at the end of this ad. Experienced redrawers can replace the test by a trial run with one chapter of the actual series, but if we are not satisfied by the quality of your work, the redraws won't be used. It's high-risk, high-gain.

Now, speaking of new projects...

If I didn't have a real life... if I lived in a hut at the edge of the desert, paid for a job like doing customs for passing caravans, and had nothing to fill up long hours of tedium, I would take up as many translation chores as I could. But I am realistic: I have a life outside of my scanlation hobby, so I have to constantly police myself not to get in over my head.

Death Toll has one other translator, our Head of Translation, Momimomi-*senpai*, who works exclusively on ***Sprite***. And we have the pleasure of counting on the collaboration of one of the most celebrated freelancers out there, the one and only Royal, who does ***Teizokurei Monophobia***. However, these two and yours truly are the only translation staff. Since we do quite a few series, you can't say we are faring badly, can you?

But we need more. No, scratch that. We *want* more. What follows is just a partial list of things that have crossed our minds:

(I'm writing a personal summary of each one, but you can get the Mangaupdates page by pasting the number in brackets after this: https://www.mangaupdates.com/series.html?id=)

(A couple of them are things that are stalled in other groups. Perhaps listing our interest here will cause them or someone else to buckle down and resume releases. I don't mind if this happens, the important things is that we all get chapters of the manga we like. With one exception, duly justified, I'm not listing anything that isn't stalled for more than three months, in respect for scanlation etiquette.)

- ***Psychic Odagiri Kyouko's Lies*** (25564) - *seinen* mystery comedy by the author of ***Liar Game***. Seven volumes published, only five chapters translated so far. Wordy, and the author is brainy, so be prepared to translate complicated schemes on a variety of subjects.

- ***Shounen Y*** (86787) - supernatural *shounen* that dabbles in metaphysical and ethics matters. Three chapters were scanlated at low quality, so we'd like to begin from scratch. Finished at eight volumes. Chapters aren't too wordy or hard to translate.

- ***God, you bastard, I wanna kill you!*** (103720) - a *seinen* dark comedy. We lost the translator for this one. On hiatus after four volumes. Long chapters, but not very wordy or hard to translate. If no one shows up, I may take this one up.

- ***Impossibility defence*** (96029) - another *seinen* dark comedy, darker than ***God, you bastard...***. We also lost the translator for this one. It's ongoing, and the current backlog is of four volumes. Long chapters, but not very wordy or hard to translate.

- ***Underdog*** (30213) - one of our early survival manga which was axed at three volumes. Everyone asks why I don't finish this myself since it's only two chapters and an epilogue to completion. I might end up doing it, but for now I can try at least to use it as bait for new blood, can't I? The next chapter, 15, is cleaned and I think redrawn, too.

- ***Revenge classroom*** (105505) - a horror *shounen*, currently stalled at the original scanlators. A bit of a dark comedy, too. The current backlog is of three volumes, and it is finished in Japan.

- ***Broken Blade*** (13176) - a *seinen* mecha manga. Technically not stalled, but the current scanlators have said with all words that we are free to start our own scanlations if we're not pleased with theirs. And quite a few people, myself included, aren't. So I consider ourselves or anyone else officially excused for not minding etiquette for this one. We got their permission after all.

If you are a translator, and interested in any of the above, this is our test:
https://i.imgur.com/THUEuuk.jpg

You can do it and send it to me in Batoto (I go by Kendama there) or in our home page, deathtollscans.net, as a PM to Wraith. You can also post it in the "Join us" section there, as a thread in "Translation".

If you are experienced, you can bypass the translation test, but please talk to me first. And if you have other projects in mind, we're happy to hear your suggestions. (Just read the mood: by taking a look at Death Toll's record of projects, you can tell which genres we are more interested in.)

Let me add that once we get the translators, we'll have to strive to find editors. We can ensure the release of bait chapters to fish for new staff once we get scripts. But don't worry, we won't ask you to translate more than one chapter initially, and will make sure that script doesn't go to waste. Only if we get new editors will we ask you to fire away at translating.

The Internet, December 27, 2016

Wraith

Death Toll Scanlations

WITH THIS, AND STARTING TODAY, YOU ARE REBORN AS A "POLICE OFFICER", IKUO.
巡査
Police officer
龍崎 イクオ
Ryuuzaki Ikuo
Y-YEAH... I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT, THOUGH...

TL/N: Not really "reborn", the original was "rehashed", "cleaned", so I adapted a little.

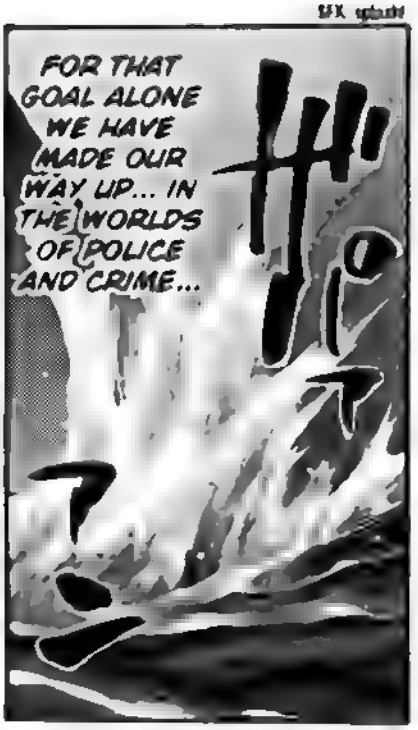
OUR... THE "TWIN DRAGONS'" GOAL...

THE POLICE AND THE YAKUZA.. WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO COME ACROSS EACH OTHER
SFX: slip slip slip
OUR PATH HAS SPLIT INTO TWO.

TODAY, I RECEIVED THE SAKE FROM THE MATSUO BRIGADE, A THIRD-RANK FOLLOWER ORGANIZATION OF THE ABIKO GROUP.
STARTING TODAY I AM, SO TO SPEAK, A MEMBER OF A CRIME SYNDICATE.
.....

WE WON'T BE CONNECTED AGAIN AS WE WERE UNTIL NOW.
BLACK AND WHITE, LIGHT AND SHADOW...
"THE PROSECUTOR OF THE LAW" AND "THE INHABITANT OF DARKNESS"
IF WE'RE NOT DETERMINED TO CAST AWAY OUR LIVES, OUR REVENGE WILL NOT SUCCEED
THE ENEMY WE'RE TARGETING IS A DANGEROUS MAN IN THE HIGH CIRCLES OF POWER OF THIS COUNTRY
PROMISE ME ONE THING.
DON'T BEHAVE LIKE A SPOILED CHILD, IKUO.
B-BUT TAT-CHAN WE WERE GOING TO CARRY OUT OUR REVENGE TOGETHER
IF IT SEEMS I WON'T MAKE IT WITH MY LIFE, DON'T HESITATE TO ABANDON ME
EH !-
IF IT'S YOUR LIFE THAT SEEMS FORFEIT,
!

TO AVENGE YUIKO-SENSEI...



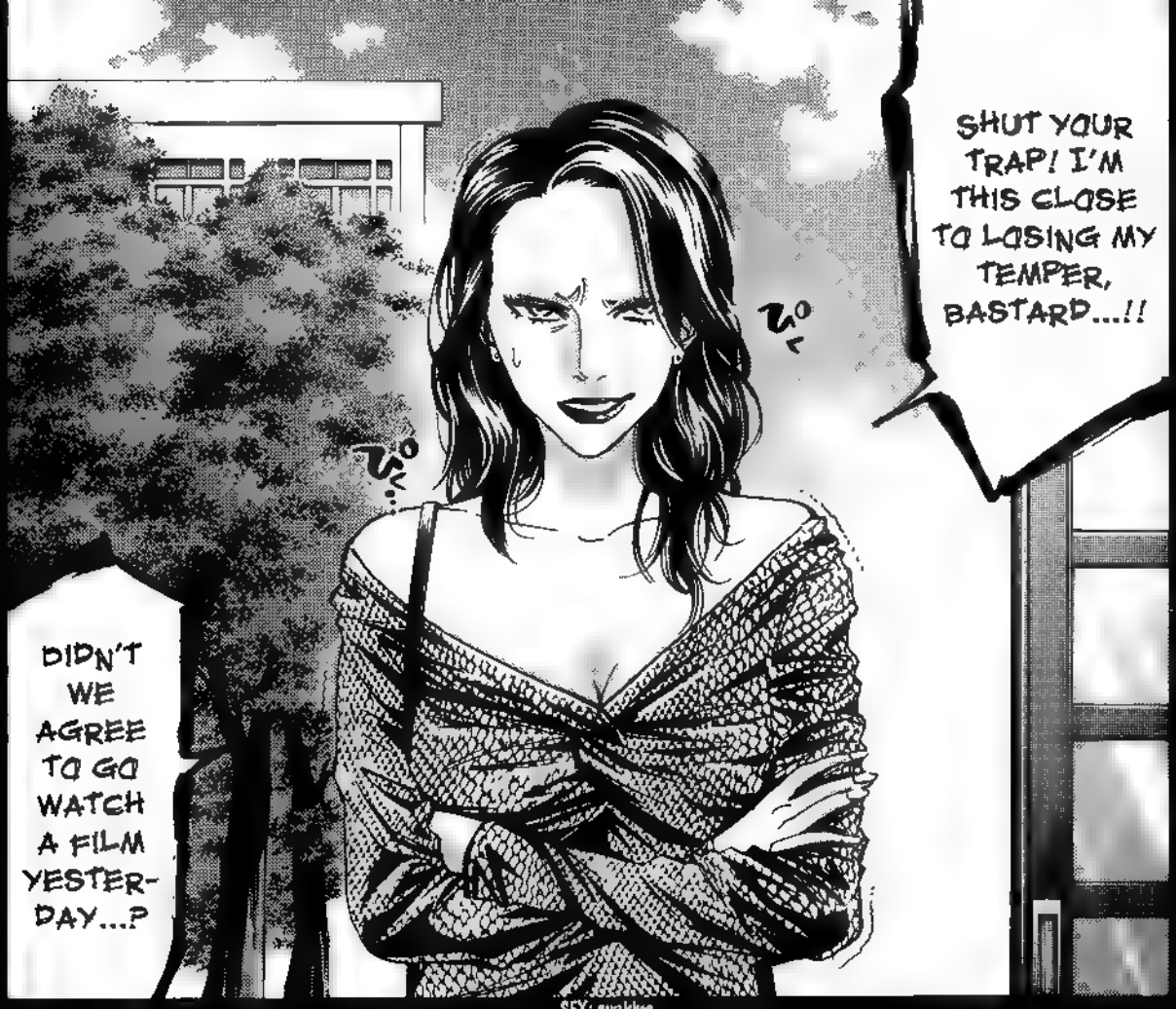
THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH!!
THE DEPUTY SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL OF THE MPD HIJIRI YUKITO... THIS MAN IS THE ONE WE HAVE SOUGHT ALL THIS TIME.
第27話
CHAPTER 96: PLUNGE

SFX: sound of waves

THIS FELLA AND I WERE CONTEMPORARIES IN UNIVERSITY.
!... COME TO THINK OF IT, HIJIRI AND KIRINO...!
SFX. step
STILL... THAT MUST HAVE BEEN AROUND 30 YEARS AGO?
YOU... HAVE CHANGED QUITE A LOT, YOU KNOW?
SFX. sound of waves
IN SPITE OF OUR BEING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TYPES OF PERSONS,
WE WERE COMRADE PRODIGIES AT THE TOP OF OUR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.
IN THE OLD TIMES, YOU WERE MORE...

TL/N: When Hijiri shouts at kendo, it has meaning. Kendo shouting follows a specific vocabulary. This one means the attacker is targeting the opponent's mask – *men* in Japanese. Of course, the kendo practitioners will also shout plain expletives, so you will find "hyaah!" and the like. When there's meaning, I'll transcribe it phonetically and add a note to explain it.

WELL, YOU KEEP PRACTICING ATTACK TECHNIQUES, THE THREE OF YOU.
I'LL BE BACK SHORTLY.
ROGER!!
WHY... ARE YOU HERE?
I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF PRACTICE. IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH ME, PLEASE WAIT UNTIL LATER...



FROM THAT TIME, THE BADLY BEHAVED ME AND THE MADDENINGLY SERI-OUS YUKITO, BOTH OF WHOM DIDN'T FIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIVERSI-TIES, STRANGELY GREW CLOSER TO EACH OTHER.
WE PROBABLY FELT COMFORT-ABLE THAT WE COULD RELATE WITHOUT HAVING ANYTHING IN COMMON.

DON'T WEIGH ME AGAINST A FLOOR!!
WHAT?
BUT SURELY I TOLD YOU THAT YESTERDAY WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE WE HAD TO APPLY WAX TO THE FLOOR OF THE DOJO.
HAVE I LOST TO A FLOOR !?

TL/N: I said "maddeningly serious", but I'm not satisfied, and my edition of the Roget's thesaurus isn't helping, either. She said kuso majimena, literally a "shitty serious person". Majimena, actually, encompasses the virtues of honesty, seriousness, earnestness and diligence. However, I can only think of "goody two-shoes" in English and it is not quite the same thing.

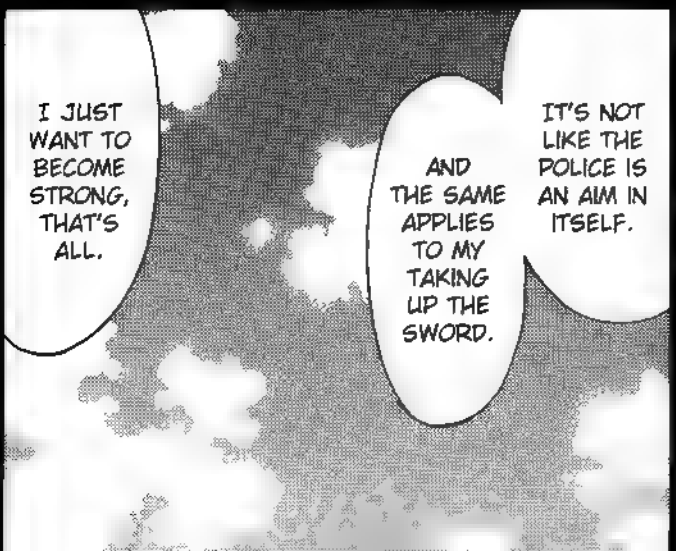
IT'S HARD, NERDY AND YOU STINK OF SWEAT!
IS IT REALLY THAT FUN?
YOU'RE DOING THIS EVEN INSIDE UNIVERSITY!
Youve got to be kido my
!
I AM ENJOYING MY YOUTH, TOO.
BE IT IN PARTIES OR PART-TIME JOBS, EVERYONE IS ENJOYING THEIR YOUTH, AND YET...
I CAN SAY WHATEVER, BUT... YOU ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE, ARE YOU?
SFX: swish!
IS THIS FELLA A SAMURAI OR SOMETHING...?
.....
SWORD AND SOUL AS ONE.
BY WIELDING THE SWORD LIKE THIS, I HAVE ENHANCED MY MIND QUITE A LOT.
NO WORRIES ON THAT END.
THESE DAYS, EVEN IF YOU POLISH YOUR SWORD SKILL, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT BREAD ON YOUR TABLE, YOU KNOW THAT?
Hehe...
BY THE WAY, HOW'S YOUR JOB-HUNTING?

I WILL
BECOME A POLICE OFFICER.
SFX: whoosh!

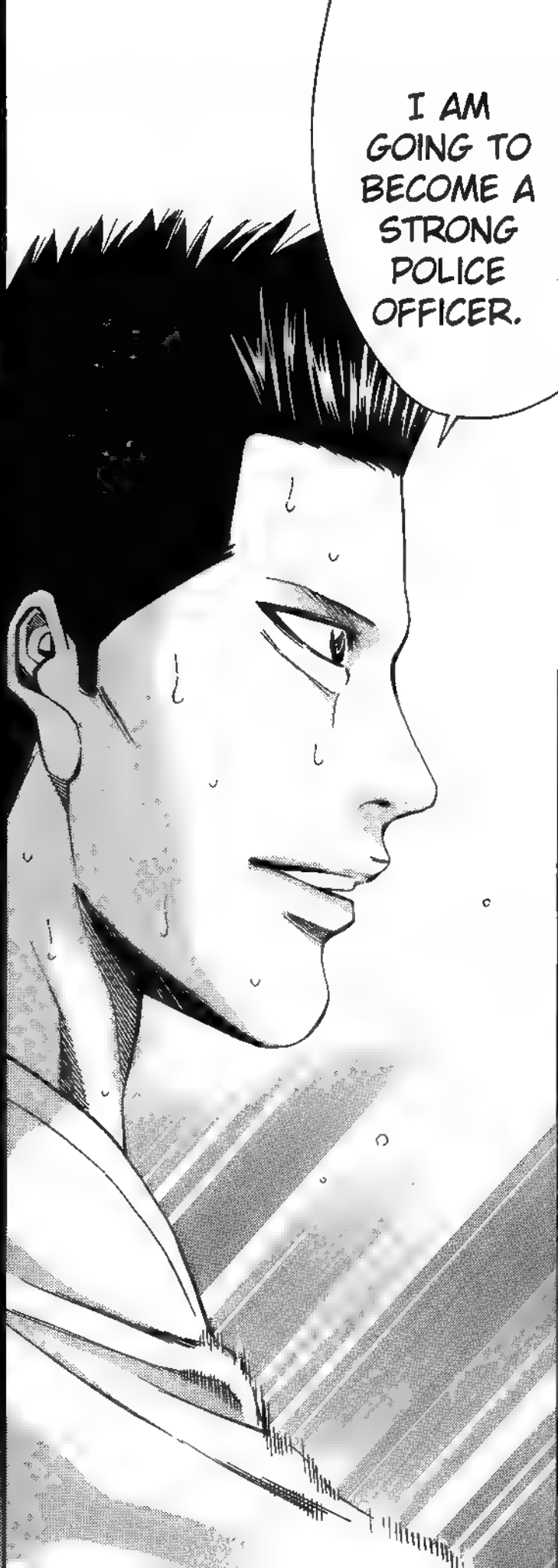
HUH?
.....

NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
THAT'S THE FIRST I HEAR ABOUT IT...!? YOUR GOAL IS TO BECOME A COP...

!?
THE POLICE!?
IT'S JUST RIGHT FOR ME. SINCE KENDO IS A COMPULSORY SUBJECT FOR COPS.


I JUST WANT TO BECOME STRONG, THAT'S ALL.
AND THE SAME APPLIES TO MY TAKING UP THE SWORD.
IT'S NOT LIKE THE POLICE IS AN AIM IN ITSELF.

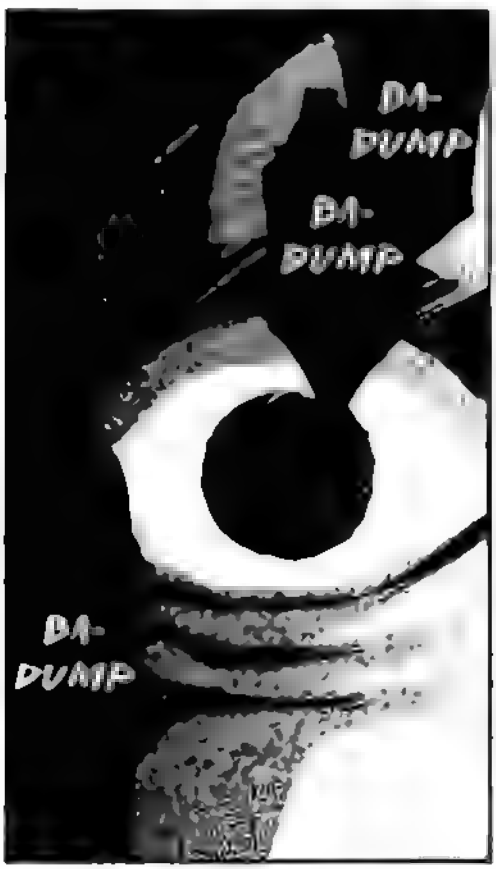
TL/N: Another lame attempt at translating kuso majimena >_<



AND THEN, BY BECOMING THE WIFE OF A YAKUZA BOSS, MY CONNECTION WITH YUKITO WAS COMPLETELY SEVERED.
AS A JEWELLER, I SET ONE FOOT INTO THE UNDERWORLD, YOU SEE.
AFTER WE GRADUATED, WE STEADILY PUT MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN OURSELVES, AS IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN.
SFX: wind blowing
I WOULD BE GLAD EVEN IF MY LIFE IN ORGANIZED CRIME HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END... YOU BET.
HONESTLY... IF IT WERE THE YOU FROM BACK THEN,
SFX: wind blowing
THE TIME I LEARNED YOU WERE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE EFFORT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME, I COULD FEEL THE WHEELS OF FATE TURNING.
SFX: point
YOU... WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
!
BUT,
YOUR NATURE HAS CHANGED.
.....
THE MOMENT I WOULD MEET YOU AGAIN WASN'T FAR, WAS IT?

YOU ARE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON
YOU LOOK LIKE THE MAN I FELL IN LOVE WITH, BUT ARE NOT LIKE HIM, AT ALL...
THE MOMENT I SAW THE FILTH IN YOUR EYES, I CONFIRMED IT.

IS THAT THE TRUE FORM OF THE STRONG POLICE OFFICER YOU WANTED TO BECOME?
ILLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS ARRESTS FOR MISDEMEANOURS THREATENING TO USE VIOLENCE THE METHODS OF THE MIJTRI SQUAD ARE SO DIRTY EVEN A YAKUZA WANTS TO THROW UP AT THEM


DA-DUMP
DA-DUMP
DA-DUMP

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU?
AFTER YOU ENTERED THE POLICE
DA-DUMP

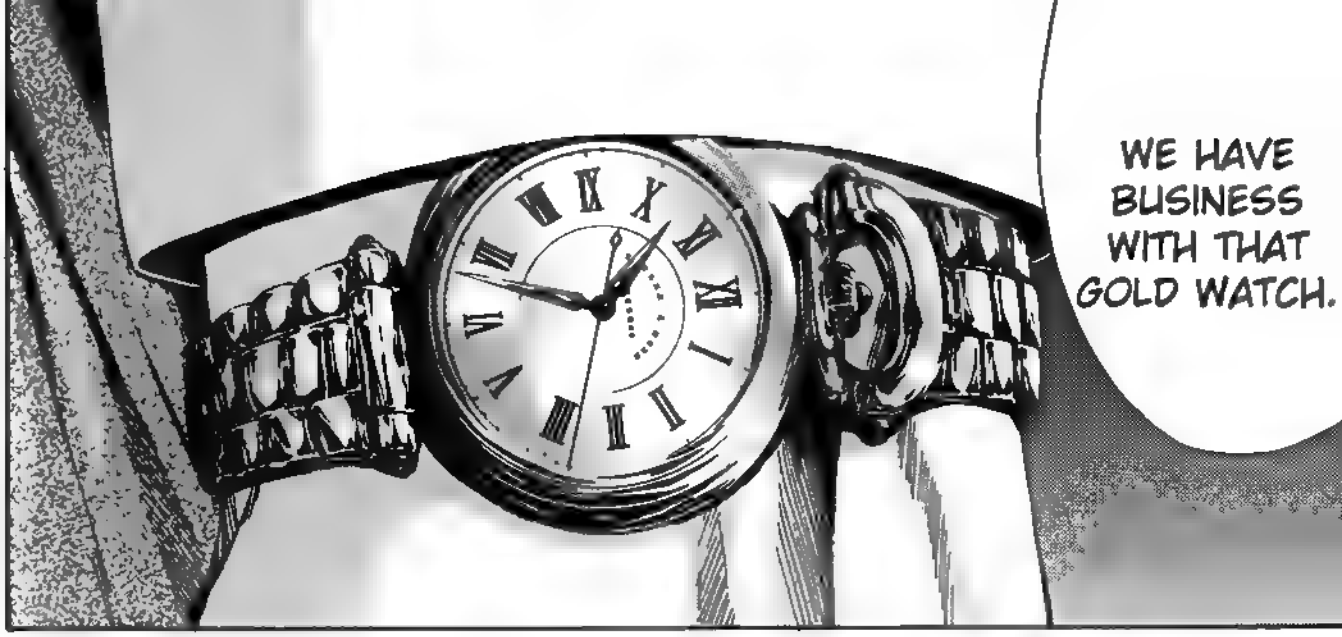
I'M GOING IN!
THE DRUG ADDICT IS IN THAT APARTMENT COMPLEX...!
I HEAR YOU ARE AMAZING AT KENDO?
HIJIRI...
STARTING TODAY, I AM UNDER YOUR CARE!
MY NAME IS HIJIRI!
GO UP IN THE RANKS, QUICK.
STOP, HIJIRI! UNTIL REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE FROM HEADQUARTERS...
GAAA AH!!
IT HURTS... IT HURTS...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, HIJIRI!?
HIJIRI!?

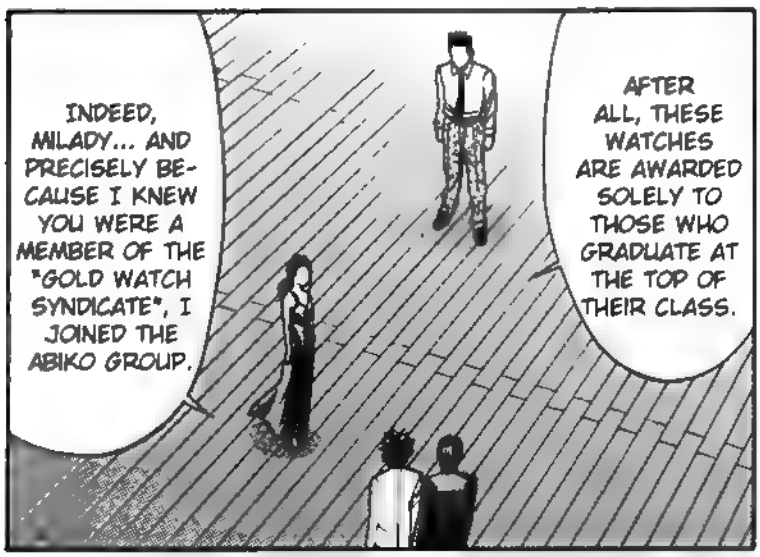
!
WHAT A TEDIOUS OLD MONK...
AND WHAT'S WORSE, YOU DEGRADED YOURSELF BY WHORING YOURSELF TO A YAKUZA BOSS...!
I HAVE CHANGED! RIGHT BACK AT YOU, KIRIN!...
!
YUKITO...

SFX. sound of waves

!
THAT WATCH ON HIJIRI'S LEFT ARM.

EVEN IF IT'S YOU, I WON'T LET YOU GET IN OUR WAY...!
DON'T INTERRUPT US, DANNO.
I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO THIS FELLOW...
MILADY.

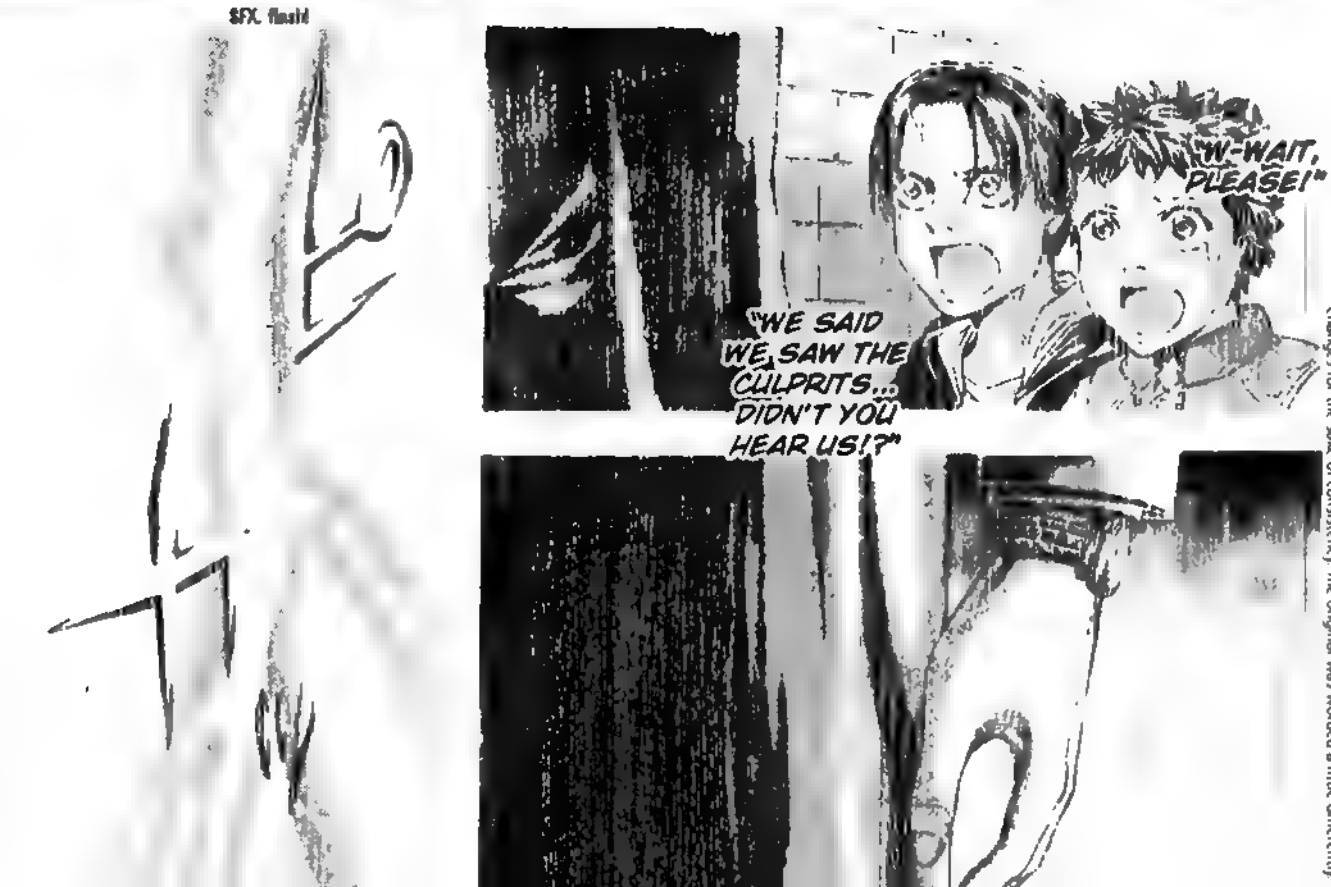

WE HAVE BUSINESS WITH THAT GOLD WATCH.


AFTER ALL, THESE WATCHES ARE AWARDED SOLELY TO THOSE WHO GRADUATE AT THE TOP OF THEIR CLASS.
INDEED, MILADY... AND PRECISELY BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE "GOLD WATCH SYNDICATE", I JOINED THE ABIKO GROUP.

?
IF IT'S THE GOLD WATCH HIJIRI IS WEARING, I AM ALSO IN POSSESSION OF ONE.

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I, MILADY... OUR GOAL
IS "REVENGE"...!

SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO... KASHIWABA YUIKO, WHO RAN AN ORPHANAGE CALLED "MAHOROBA" AND RAISED US LIKE A PARENT...
SHE, WHO HAD BEEN A COP, WAS KILLED BY POLICE OFFICERS LIKE HER... THE LOT FROM THE "ZERO" DIVISION OF PUBLIC SECURITY.
AND THEN, THERE WAS THE MAN WHO CONTROLLED ZERO FROM THE SHADOWS...
THAT MAN, WHO WAS A DETECTIVE AT THE TIME, THREATENED THE TWO CHILDREN WHO WERE THE SOLE EYEWITNESSES OF THE CRIME... AND SUPPRESSED THE TRUTH OF THE STORY.

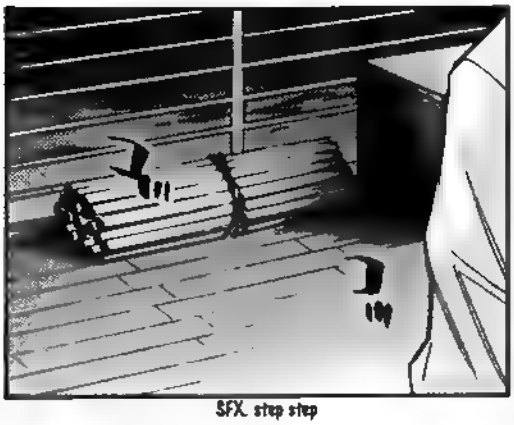


TLN: This is from the first chapter, so I am retaining the wording with minimal changes for the sake of consistency. The original was worded a little differently.

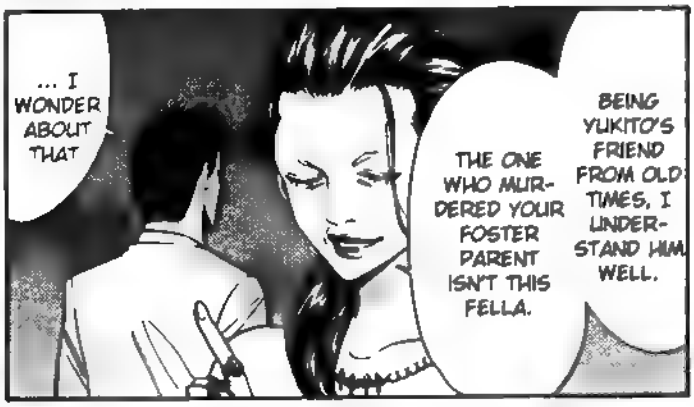
WAS HIJIRI...!!
WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW... IS WHETHER THE DETECTIVE WHO THREATENED US THEN
PFT!
...ARE YOU SAYING YUKITO IS THE FOE AGAINST WHOM YOU WANT REVENGE...?

DON'T SPOUT NONSENSE, YOU TWO!
SURELY, THIS FELLA SHOWS NO MERCY TO CRIMINALS AND YAKUZA... STILL,
HE IS NOT SOME FIEND TO COMMIT CRIMES HIMSELF!
はは
は

SFX. hahahaha!



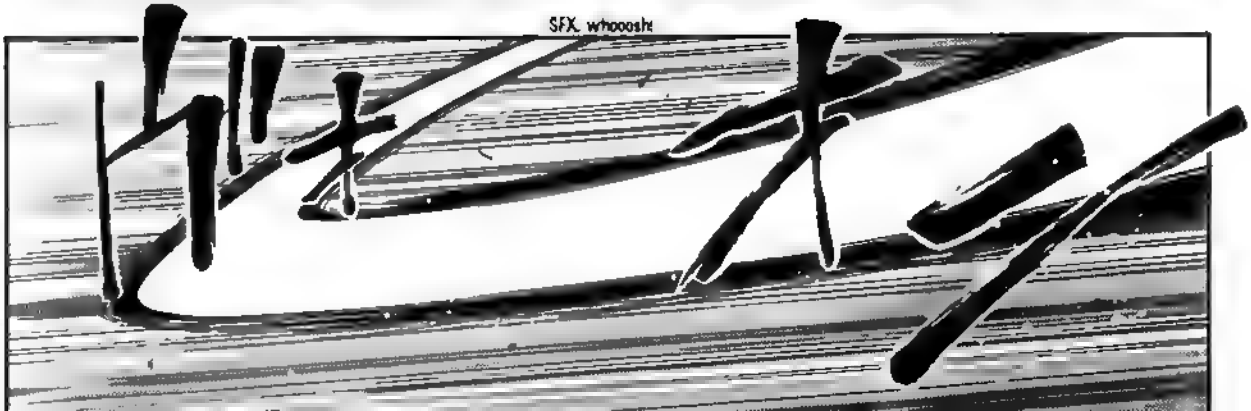
SFX. step step


BEING YUKITO'S FRIEND FROM OLD TIMES, I UNDERSTAND HIM WELL.
THE ONE WHO MURDERED YOUR FOSTER PARENT ISN'T THIS FELLA.
... I WONDER ABOUT THAT

SFX. clank.

KIRINO... WHAT ABOUT THOSE WORDS YOU SAID JUST NOW?
THE ONE I AM NOW IS ANOTHER PERSON WHO LOOKS LIKE, BUT IS NOT LIKE THE ONE I WAS.

SFX. whoooshi



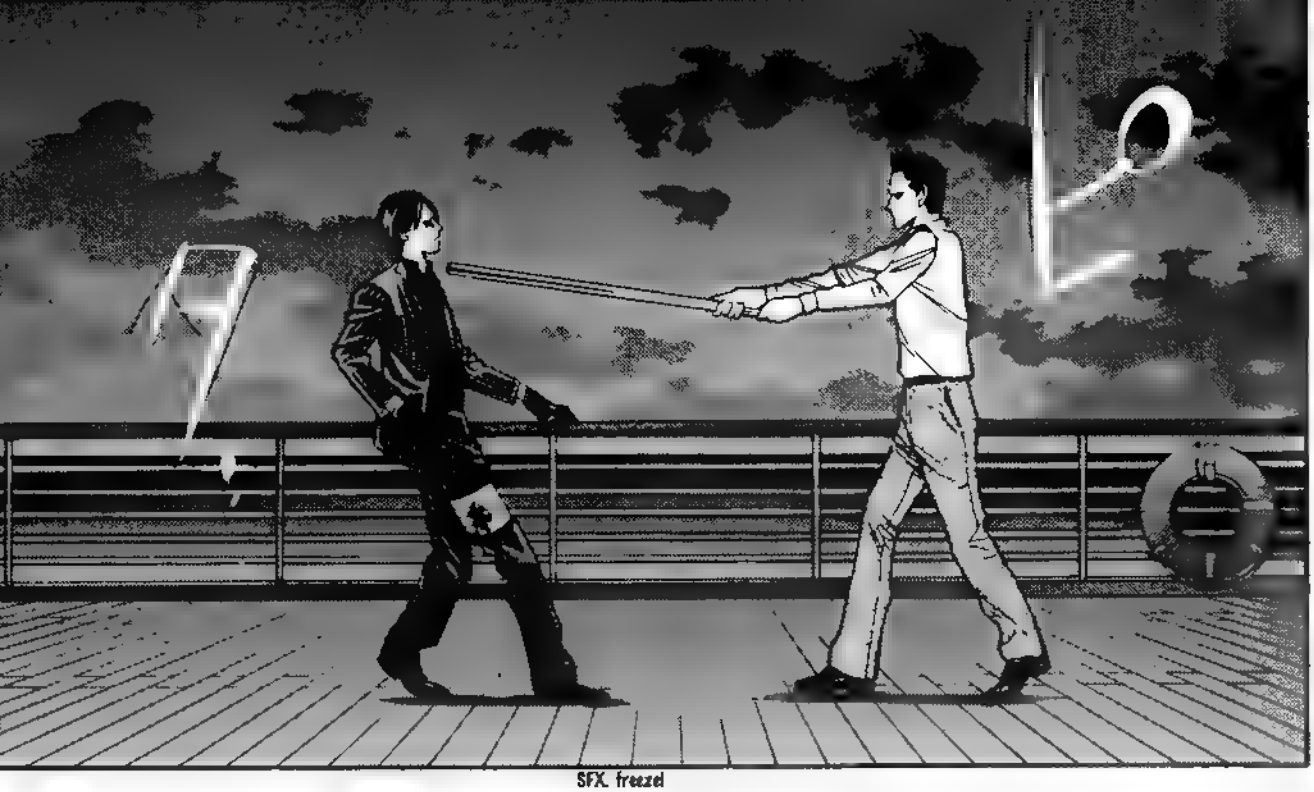
RIGHT NOW... I REGRET IT.
SEVEN-TEEN YEARS AGO... I SHOULD DEFINITE-LY HAVE KILLED YOU TWO...!

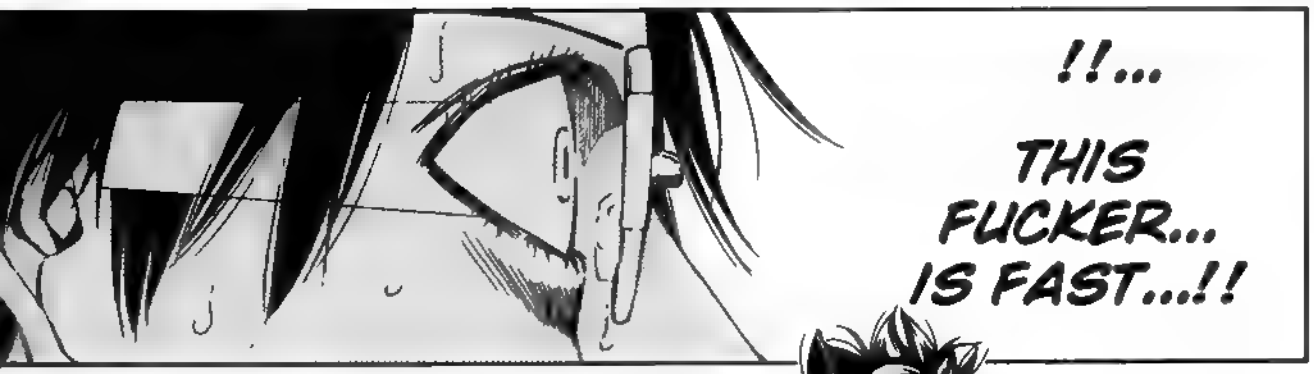
HITORI
IS GOLD
WATCH...!!

SPURT!
Ah!!

KYEEEH!!
!!
SFX whoosh!
SFX zoom!

TL/N: It's a bit distorted because he's shouting it, but kiai is an explosive kendo shout intent at mustering courage and determination while frightening the opponent and interrupting their concentration


SFX. frezzel


!!...
THIS FUCKER... IS FAST...!!

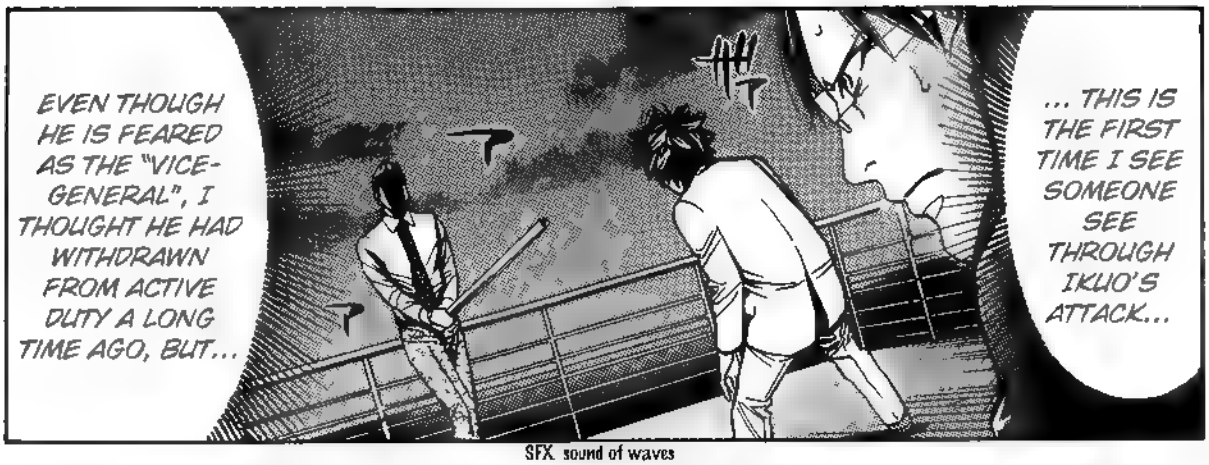
SFX. whoosh!
SFX: swish!
!

!!
ぶぉ

!!

UGH!

TSK!!


EVEN THOUGH HE IS FEARED AS THE "VICE-GENERAL", I THOUGHT HE HAD WITHDRAWN FROM ACTIVE DUTY A LONG TIME AGO, BUT...
... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I SEE SOMEONE SEE THROUGH IKUO'S ATTACK...

SFX. sound of waves

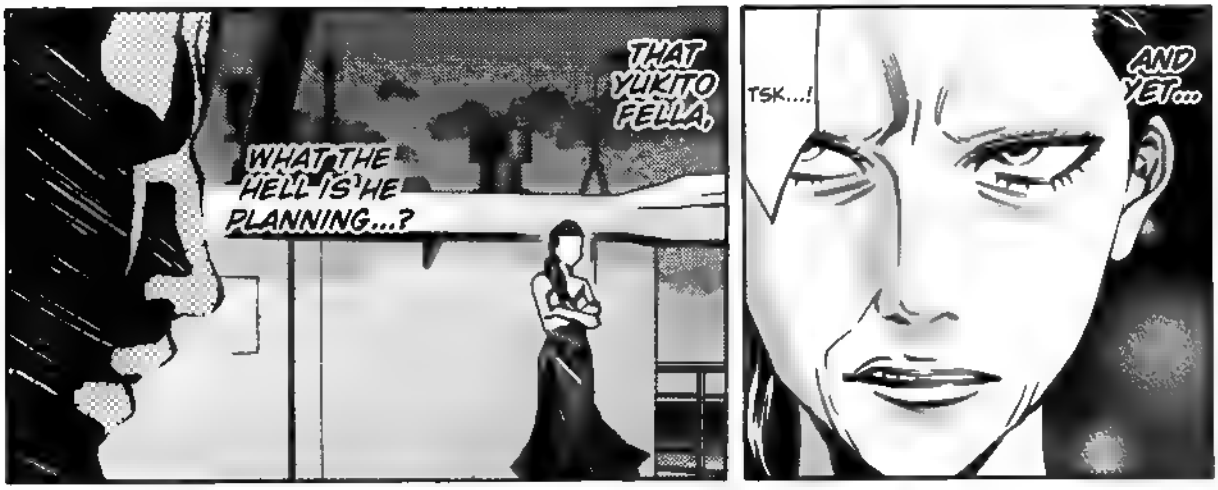
SFX. dash

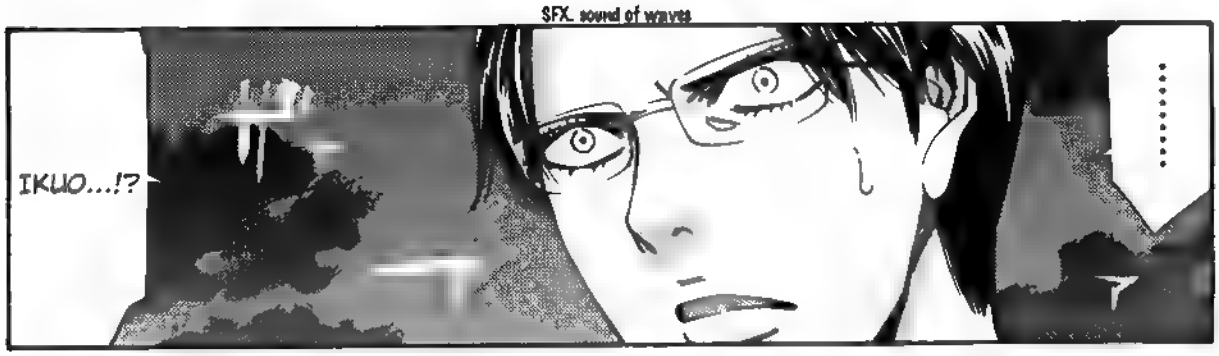
SFX ominous

SFX. whoosh

SHIT!
LEAP!
LEAP!
RAAAH!!

BUT HE'S BEING COMPLETELY OVERPOWERED.
HE HAS A GREAT ATHLETIC PROW-ESS...
HEEH...
DANNO'S PARTNER, THAT SHORTY...
THE MORE HE FALLS FOR YUKITO'S TRICKS...
CONTRARY TO THAT GREENHORN, WHO'S MOVING BLINDLY AND WASTING HIS ENERGY, YUKITO ISN'T MISSING A BREATH.
THE MORE THE BRAT LOSES HIS COMPOSURE,


THAT YUKITO FELLA.
WHAT THE HELL IS HE PLANNING...?
TSK...!
AND YET...


SFX. sound of waves
IKUO...!?
.....

HISIRI...
THAT MAN, WHY...

WHY...!?
THROB
THROB

THROB
WHAT THE
MY
THROB
MY HEAD IS ACHING...

IF WE BLABBED ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS, HE WOULD KILL US... HE SAID.
THAT DAY, 17 YEARS AGO... THIS MAN TURNED SUCH MURDEROUS INTENT TOWARDS TWO POWERLESS CHILDREN.
IT WAS ALSO TO CONQUER THAT TERROR THAT I HAVE CEASELESSLY SEARCHED FOR GOLD WATCH, AND YET...
THROB
THROB
WHY...?
I FELT EVERY FIBRE OF EMOTION WITHIN MY BODY GIVING WAY TO THAT FEELING.
THAT TIME, I WAS TERRIFIED OF THOSE EYES, DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF MY SOUL.
DON'T I SEE ANY MURDEROUS INTENT AT ALL...?
WHY, RIGHT NOW, IN THIS MAN'S EYES,

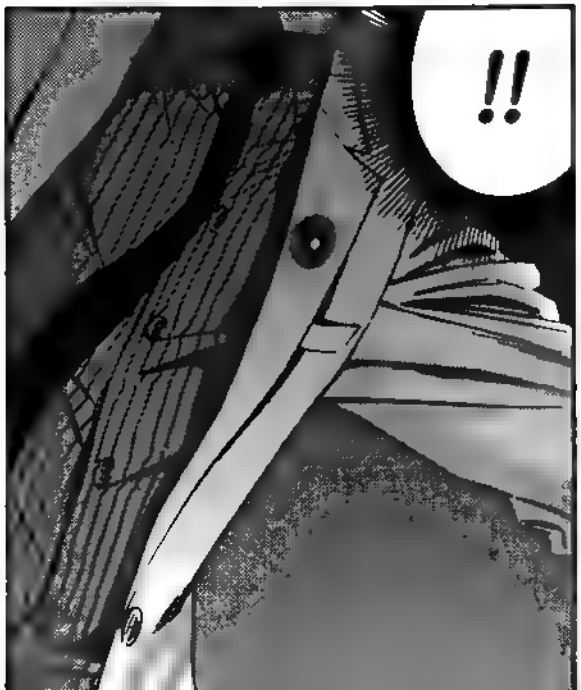
HE...
SOME-THING IS WRONG WITH HIM...
AH...
UH... GH...
IKUO...?
IT CAN'T BE
HE'S EN-TERING A TRANCE LIKE THAT TIME...!?

!!
WE HAVE TO KILL HIM...!!
BEFORE WE'RE KILLED
!?
!
FU!

!?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH...
UUGH
...!!

GAH!!
!!
SFX: clang!
SFX. bump!
!
SFX: Laying the smackdown

SFX. punch punch



IKUO...
TRIGGER...
THE HIJIRI SQUAD HAS YOU ON TARGET!!
IKUO! GET AWAY FROM HIJIRI!
SFX: running
DON'T FUCK IT ALL UP, IKUO!
SNAP OUT OF IT, RETARD!!
IT'S USELESS... THAT FELLA...
HE CAN'T HEAR MY VOICE...!!
UGH...
!!...

IF IT SEEMS I WON'T MAKE IT WITH MY LIFE, DON'T HESITATE TO ABANDON ME.
IF YOU DIE, I...

IT'S YOUR LIFE THAT SEEMS FORFEIT, I
IF...

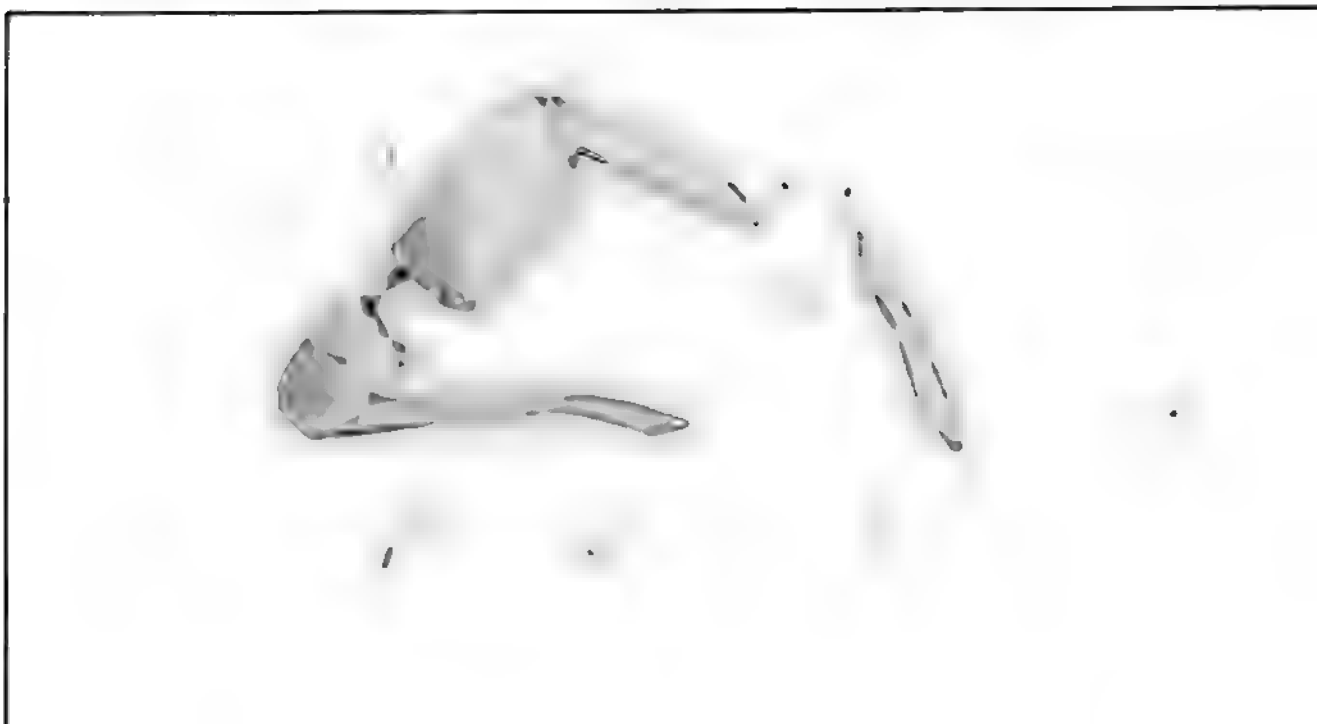
DON'T REMAIN LIKE A SPOILED CHILD, TADA!
B-BUT FAT-DADA, WE WERE GOING TO CARRY OUT OUR REVENGE TO GETHER...

PATHETIC...

AM NOT GOING TO SAVE YOU...!

SINCE WHEN...?
THINGS WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS...
CLICK...
SINCE WHEN DID I...
BECOME THIS WEAK...?
DID I
YOU SHIT-FOR-BRAINS...!

BANG!
IT'S YOUR FAULT... IKUO...



ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

[redacted]

PROOFREADER:

[redacted]

CLEANER:

[redacted]

REDRAWERS:

[redacted]

TYPESETTER:

[redacted]

QUALITY CHECKER:

[redacted]

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

Black Swan event hits Death Toll - editors needed across the board

You know how I am constantly whining, cajoling, threatening and being an overall pain in the neck trying to get you readers to apply to join us?

Well, beware what you wish for, I guess.

Here I was, saying to myself as I posted yet another recruitment ad for translators, "Ha, ha, whom am I kidding? I can as well offer free sex and no one will apply as no one ever does!"

I didn't have to offer free sex.

We landed ourselves a monster. Yes, a M-O-N-S-T-E-R, who has scared the entire team of ***God, you bastard, I wanna kill you!*** by translating nine chapters in 72 hours. For the record, that leaves only seven chapters to catch-up.

This is the kind of stuff that happened in the Golden Age of Death Toll, long before my time, when we had dozens of staff and released dozens of chapters per month. Legendary people like Magoo123 and so on.

I bet the big dogs in scanlation are chortling, "Pity the bastards, they think nine scripts in 72 hours is a lot!"

Well, it *is* a lot for us, and I could care less what other groups think of as fast. Our newcomer, **Zzzzz**, is not only fast and accurate, but incredibly chill. Even though I had told him "We're recruiting translators so we can expand the rest of the staff, so we might not be able to keep up with you. Don't translate too fast if you don't like to see your scripts wait for too long to see the light of the day as full scanlations" he said, "Don't worry, so long as there are releases and my work doesn't go to waste, I'm okay with a reasonable release pace."

I didn't press him to tell me what he understands as "reasonable". I was sent scrambling for editors like a headless chicken.

As admin, I have two goals: to keep my fellow hobbyists motivated and entertained, and to make sure no one burns out or is overworked. I can't bring myself to ask team members to work on series they aren't interested in, or on too many projects at the same time. Everyone should feel comfortable with their output.

So, if Kkkkk is happy churning out scripts like there's no tomorrow, I'll do my best to get him all the editors needed to keep him in that state. Now, I don't think he will keep that pace for the long term - I am aware of the danger of burn-out even for highly motivated, talented people, but I want at least to make sure there's a team steadily working on whatever it is he wants to work on.

We're (more or less) fine with ***God, you bastard...*** Zeroaintdead cleaning, Comicryan proofing, Mii redrawing. (We might need a typesetter, but I'll advertise for that one when I am sure.)

However, he wants to do our stalled project, ***Impossibility Defence***, next: http://bit.ly/2kqD10S

I want to purchase raws for that, because as nearly everything we do, it's hard to edit and public raws may make things harder. So we may not be ready to resume scanlation before the end of February.

I have that time to find a cleaner and a typesetter for that. (We might need a redrawer, too, but again, I'll recruit for that when I am sure of a few things.)

And he has a pet project he wants to work on at a leisurely pace, ***Ichigeki***: http://bit.ly/2k5dSYE

For that one, we would need raws (I'll see about that) and the entire team minus possibly the proofreader: a cleaner, a redrawer and a typesetter. This will take a while to launch, too, so be prepared to wait in the wings for a bit.

Besides, we have a bundle of ***Saru Lock*** scripts, cleans and typesets and, while we do have a redrawer, we could do with another one to speed releases up.

We also need a temporary cleaner for ***Sprite*** while our Head Cleaner bubbub is in a leave of absence.

So, to summarise: we need three cleaners, two redrawers and two typesetters. Of course, we can do with fewer if one or more applicants want to do more than one series. Let me know if it's the case. Here are important instructions before applying: http://bit.ly/2kyca5A and the information in green at http://bit.ly/2jMGwwx

We won't lower our standards despite the dire need, though.

This is our typesetting test: https://goo.gl/wv7KcU

This is our cleaning test: https://goo.gl/K8b9ON

For brave souls, we have a test that combines the two above: https://goo.gl/f6xova

Applicants for redrawing ***Saru Lock*** can do the full test but leave out the pages marked "DIFFICULT": https://goo.gl/qfnsc6

Applicants for ***Ichigeki***, well... we aren't sure because the two chapters we have are really easy, so not to have people pointlessly overworked, our general test should do: https://goo.gl/KIuWmE

If you want to clean ***Sprite***, please contact me (information on contact follows below), we have a specialised test for that one.

Applicants should bundle their tests in a compressed file (ZIP, RAR, 7Z, whatever), upload it to a cloud service and and either post the link in our home page (http://bit.ly/2kC4oZk) or send it to me as a PM (Wraith at deathtollscans.net, Kendama at Bato.to). We expect them to be able to do a chapter in a week (though there are no control freaks here, we understand real life issues as well as anyone). Cleaners can use GIMP, redrawers can use it as well if they know how to export as PSD and not lose text boxes in the process. Typesetters must use Photoshop due to compatibility issues and we will give preference to Photoshop users in case there are multiple applicants to the same position (ha, ha, as if).

People with experience who want to bypass the test on account of having samples of past work will have the test replaced by an actual chapter of the series they want to work on. This still means it is a test: if you fail, the chapter edited by you won't be used. It's high risk (having an entire chapter discarded because you didn't pass), high gain (working on something that will actually be used instead of a test). People without experience can't take that route.

No loss in reminding: apart from ***Saru Lock*** and ***Sprite***, on which successful applicants will begin immediately, you may have to wait a little until you have chapters to work on, okay?

I was going to suspend the invitation to new translators, in fear that we could see ourselves overwhelmed with scripts and unable to cope, but you know what? The chances of another Zzzzz waltzing into our group is next to zero, so I'll list now the remaining projects we have in mind:

(I'm writing a personal summary of each one, but you can find chapters of them in Batoto and elsewhere. The links are for Mangaupdates series profiles.)

(A few of them are things that are stalled in other groups. Perhaps listing our interest here will cause them or someone else to buckle down and resume releases. I don't mind if this happens, the important thing is that we all get chapters of the manga we like. With one exception, duly justified, I'm not listing anything that isn't stalled for more than three months, in respect for scanlation etiquette.)

- ***Psychic Odagiri Kyouko's Lies*** (http://bit.ly/2kqZX0d) - *seinen* mystery comedy by the author of ***Liar Game***. Seven volumes published, only five chapters translated so far. Wordy, and the author is brainy, so be prepared to translate complicated schemes on a variety of subjects.

- ***Shounen Y*** (http://bit.ly/2l6OMZB) - supernatural *shounen* that dabbles in metaphysical and ethics matters. Three chapters were scanlated at low quality, so we'd like to begin from scratch. Finished at eight volumes. Chapters aren't too wordy or hard to translate.

- ***Revenge classroom*** (http://bit.ly/2l21sow) - a horror *shounen*, currently stalled at the original scanlators. A bit of a dark comedy, too. The current backlog is of three volumes, and it is finished in Japan.

We don't have staff for these. They are prospective projects. The first thing is to get translators. Once we get them, we can use existing staff to put together a bait chapter so we can fish for editors. So we won't ask successful applicants to fire away at redrawing before we can make sure we can get steady releases. The pace in the beginning will be irregular.

Applicants can take this test: https://i.imgur.com/THUEuuk.jpg You can alternatively ask to translate a chapter of ***Suicide Island***, or we may ask you to do one depending on the result of the test. Don't worry, it will be an untranslated chapter, so the script will be used. And chapters are short, 20 pages max.

Please, listen to our plea.

The Internet, February the third, 2017

Wraith

Death Toll Scanlations

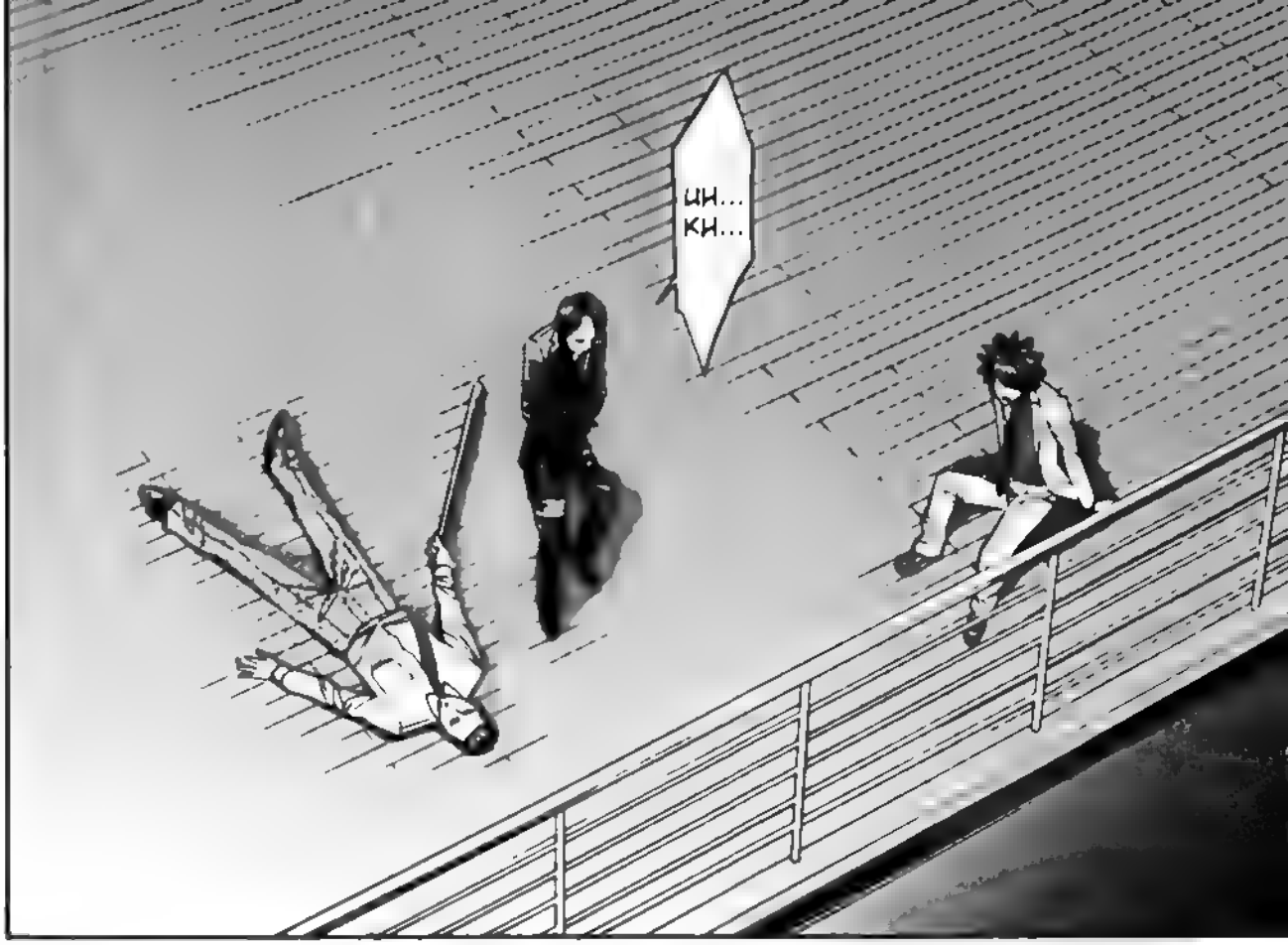
KANTO ABIKO GROUP, DIRECT FOLLOWER ORGANIZA-TION
"DANNO FAMILY" LEADER, DANNO TATSUYA.
THAT IS WHO I AM NOW.

TO SATISFY MY SELFISH DESIRES, I CRUSHED RIVAL ORGANIZATIONS... THREATENED ORDINARY PEOPLE... I AM A FIEND WHO ROSE THIS FAR.
THE SCOUNDREL I WAS WOULDN'T GIVE A THOUGHT TO SAVING ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE...

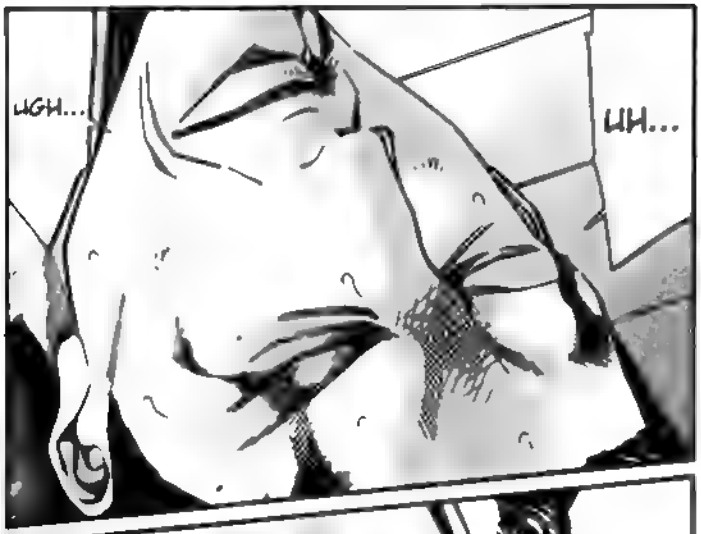
SFX. bang!

SFX. shove!

別



SFX slip!

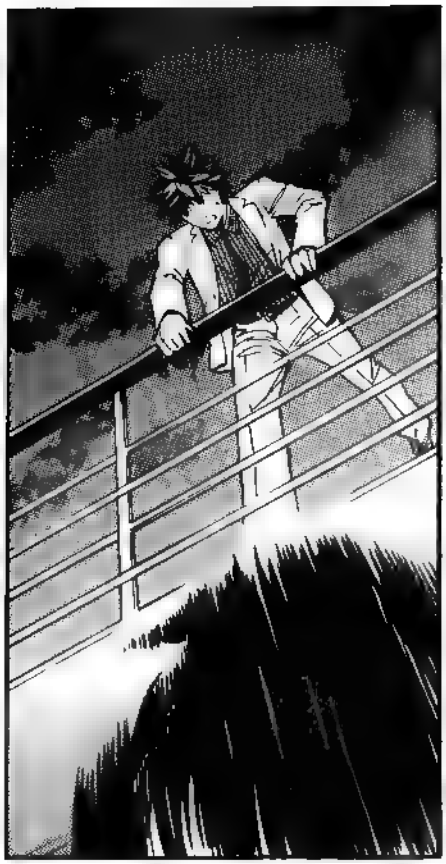


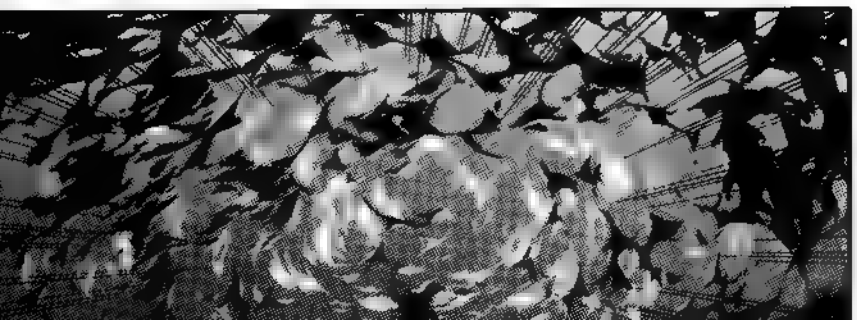
...!
!

GNASH...!

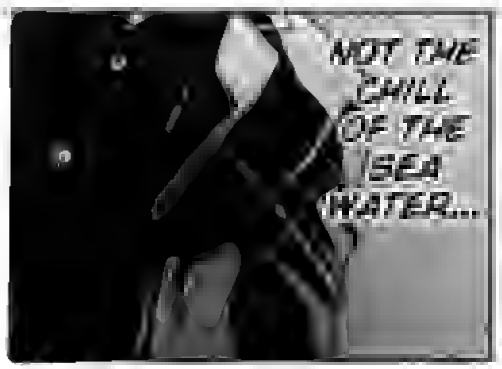
SFX grab!

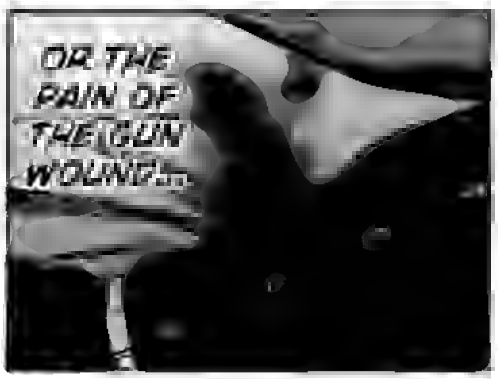
THROB
THROB
MY HEAD.. IT'S AS IF IT'S ABOUT TO CRACK !!
TAT-CHAN, HANG IN THERE...



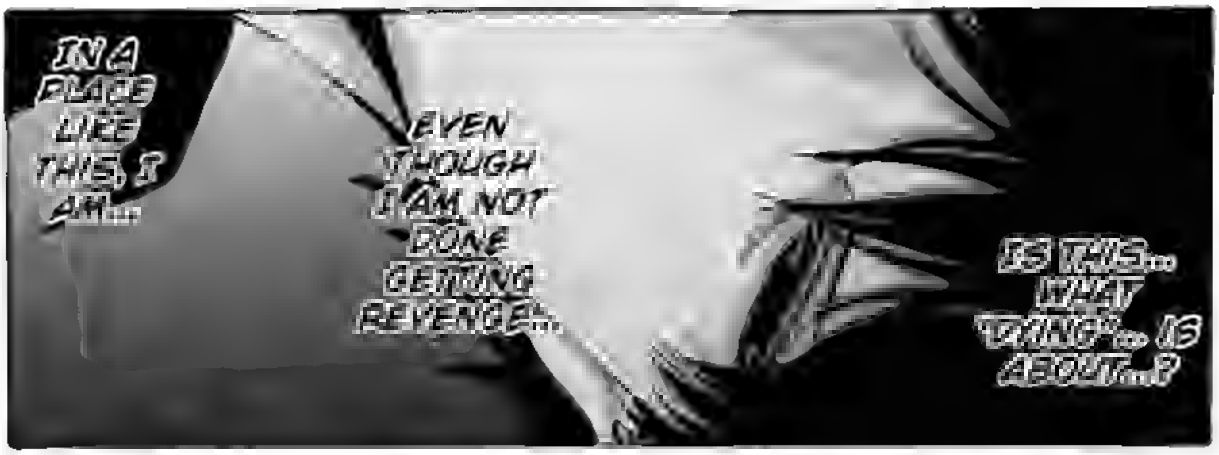


TAT-
CHAN!!
SFX: blub blub!


NOT THE CHILL OF THE SEA WATER...


OR THE PAIN OF THE GUN WOUND...

I FEEL... NOTHING...


IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, I AM...
EVEN THOUGH I AM NOT DONE GETTING REVENGE...
IS THIS... WHAT "DYING"... IS ABOUT...?

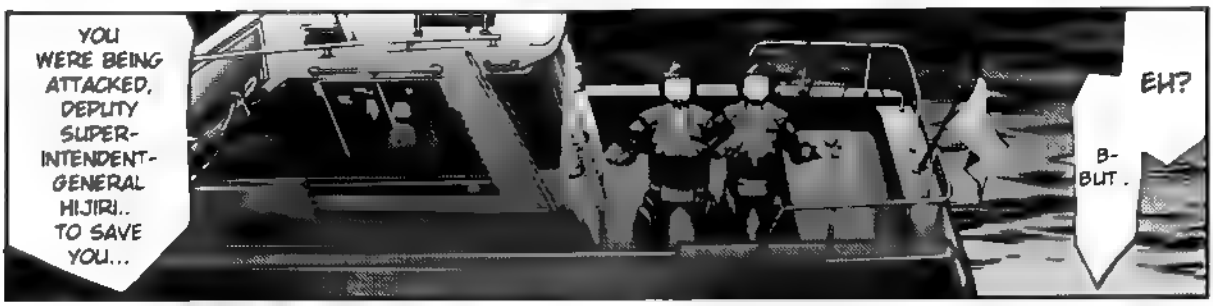
YUIKO-SENSEI...

TAT-CHAN!!
TAT-CHAN!!
TAT-CHAN!!
TAT-CHAN!!

TAT-CHAN WAS SHOT WHILE PROTECTING ME...
IT'S MY FAULT...
.. THIS ISN'T REAL... RIGHT..
TAT... CHA...
!!
THROB!
SFX: gnash gnash
IT WILL SPLIT...!!
MY HEAD... HURTS...!!
IT...
AH...
AA H...
AH...

THIS TIME
NEVER MIND THAT, THAT MAN OVER THERE... IF WE DON'T SOLVE REALITY SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL HITOR...!
SHIT. WE MISSED!
WHO PUT ME INTO THE SEA JUST NOW!?
CLANG!!

WHO AU-
THORIZED
YOU TO
SHOOT!?
YOU
IDI-
OTS!!


YOU
WERE BEING
ATTACKED,
DEPUTY
SUPER-
INTENDENT-
GENERAL
HIJIRI..
TO SAVE
YOU...
EH?
B-
BUT.

SFX sound of waves
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE,
DANNO...!?

IF HE ISN'T
FOUND, YOU
FUCKERS
ARE GOING
STRAIGHT
TO THE
DISCI-
PLINARY
COMMIT-
TEE!!
RESCUE
THE MAN
WHO FELL
INTO THE
SEA IM-
MEDIATE-
LY!!

YES,
SIR!!
!!!
YE—

YOU HAVE TOO MUCH OF A YAKUZA SPIRIT...!!
YOU DAMN FOOL...!!
YOU PROTECTED THIS TINY BRAT OF A PARTNER OF YOURS...?
I KNEW IT,-YOU...
WHY...?
THROB
THR 'B
.....
WHY...?
RATHER, WHY IS HE DESPERATELY TRYING TO SAVE TAT-CHAN...?
WHY DOESN'T DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI KILL ME...?
WHY IS THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH...
INCREASE THE LIGHT!
DON'T WASTE ANY TIME!!

SOMETHING...
IS ODD.
SFX: collapse
IT SEEMS
WE GOT
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
WRONG...
IT'S NO
USE...
ANYMORE...

...?
GOING DOWN THIS ROAD...
I DID IT MANY TIMES... WHEN I WAS A KID...
!
THIS IS...
ANOTHER... MEMORY FROM THAT TIME...?

SOME-
ONE... IS
PULLING
ME BY THE
HAND...
!!
A GOLD
WATCH...?
I DON'T
REMEMBER...
WHY IS A MAN
WITH A GOLDEN
WATCH HOLDING
MY HAND...?
WE'VE
ARRIVED.

THIS IS YOUR HOME STARTING TODAY.

WHO...?
.....?

THIS IS... "MAHOROBA"...
WHICH IS TO SAY, THIS MEMORY...
IS FROM THE TIME I FIRST ARRIVED AT "MAHO-ROBA"...?

THIS IS NO GOOD...
SAN...

I... MET DEPUTY SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI WHEN I WAS A KID?
DEPUTY... SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI? HE'S YOUNG-ER

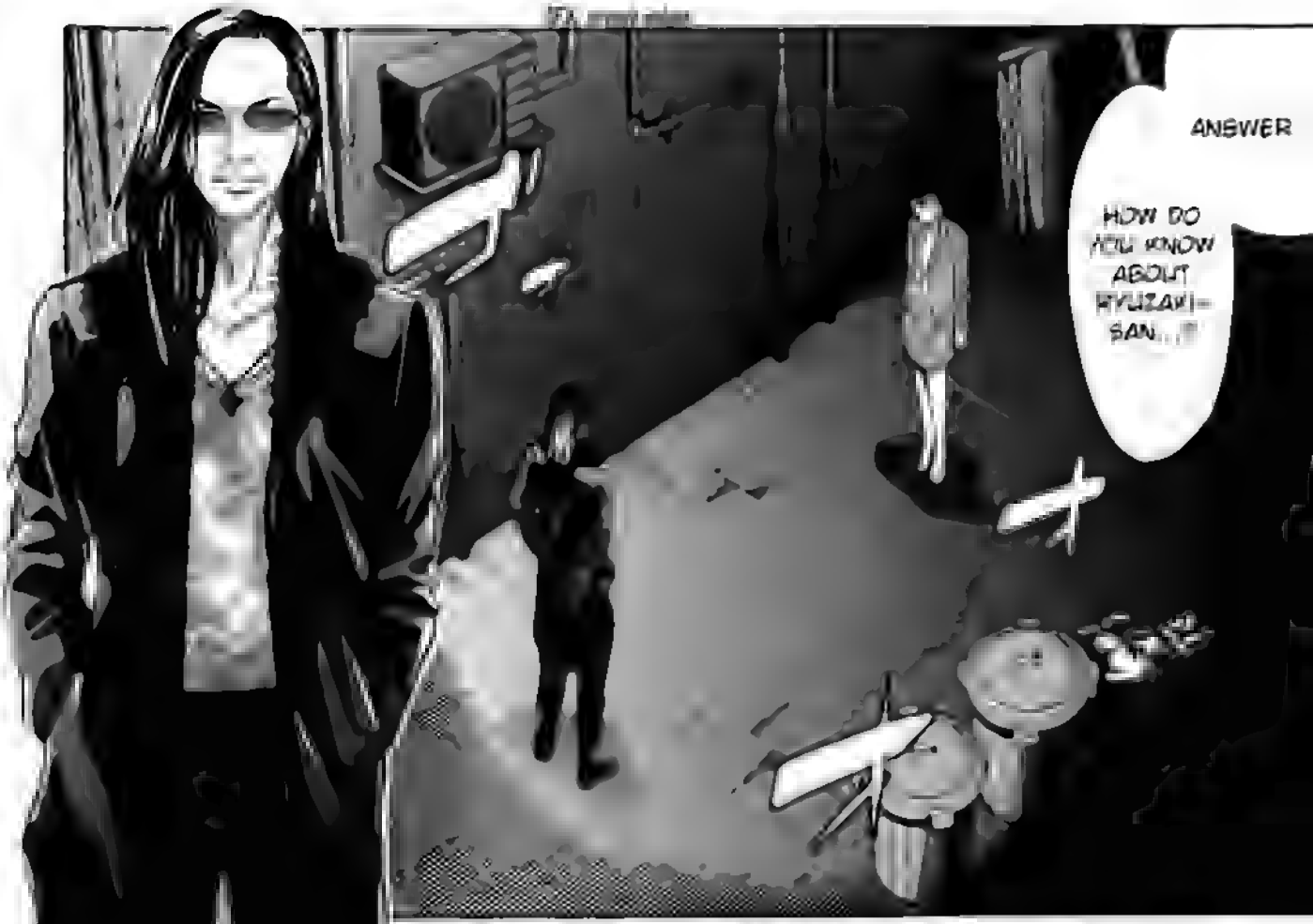
"MAHO-ROBA"... SUCH A THING IS UNFORGIV-ABLE...
I BEG YOU... SAN, PLEASE...!!

... WAIT A SEC...

...
HIJIRI...
THE MAN WITH A GOLDEN WATCH... PULLING ME BY THE HAND WHEN I WAS A CHILD,
WHO IS HE?

.....I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WHO THE HELL IS THIS MAN...?
THE "MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH" WASN'T DEPUTY SUPER= INTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI...?
WHAT THE=HELL WAS IT...?
THE PLACE WE CALLED HOME... "MAHOROBA"...

...BAS-
TARD...
WHO THE
HECK ARE
YOU...?


ANSWER
HOW DO
YOU KNOW
ABOUT
RYUZAKI-
SAN...!

SORRY
ABOUT
THAT
THIS IS
WHO I AM

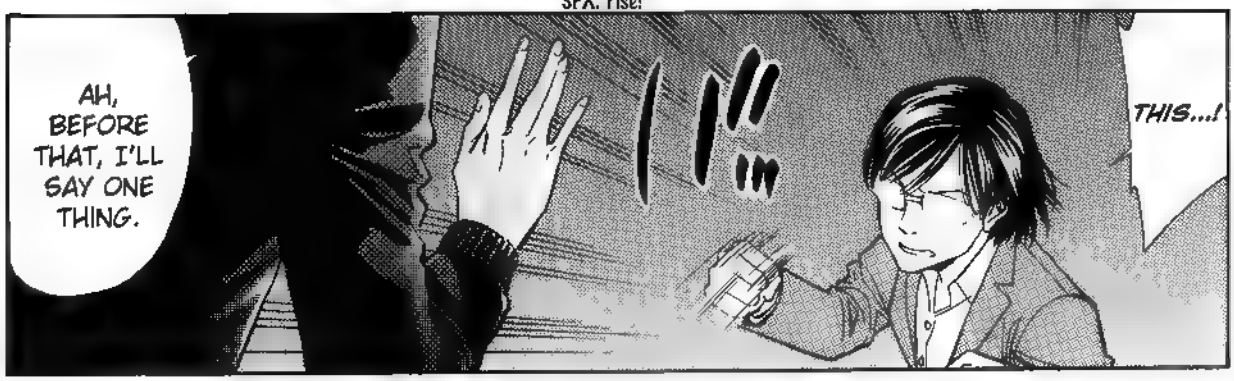
On top of card Freelance Writer

SFX. chuckle chuckle

TO BE PRECISE, I AM A FREELANCE REPORTAGE WRITER. MAINLY OF SHADY, UNDERGROUND MATTERS.
YOU'RE PROBABLY UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT MY MAIN LINE OF WORK IS COVERING THINGS LIKE THE YAKUZA, LOOSELY ORGA-NIZED GANGS, ORDINARY CRIMINALS AND DELINQUENT FOREIGNERS.

YOU WERE ABLE TO SAVE ME EARLIER BECAUSE YOU WERE TAILING ME... RIGHT?
YOU'VE RESEARCHED ENOUGH TO KNOW ABOUT RYUZAKI-SAN AND THAT I AM HIS PARTNER.
!
WOOW... AS I THOUGHT, YOU'RE SO COOL ♫
DO YOU REALLY THINK I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU INFORMATION ON MY PARTNER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT RYUZAKI-SAN, BUT TOO BAD FOR YOU.
!
... JUST AS I THOUGHT, YOU... ARE THE KIND I DISLIKE...!
SFX. yeah yeah
PERSONALLY, I AM MORE INTERESTED IN YOU THAN IN YOUR PARTNER... BY THE WAY, DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
NO LESS FROM HIBINO MIDUKI... THE FLOWER OF THE FIRST DIVISION, THE DAUGHTER OF THE SO-CALLED "DEVIL INSPECTOR", INSPECTOR-GENERAL HIBINO KUNIHIKO!

IF IT'S MY FETISHES, I'LL TALK ABOUT ANYTHING YOU WANT, THOUGH?
On the bed.
ASKING MY BODY! NOW THAT'S EROTIC ♥
I ASKED YOU WHO YOU ARE... IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO ANSWER MY QUESTION, DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOUR BODY?
CRACK... CRACK!
I'M GRATEFUL YOU SAVED ME, BUT... YOU ARE REALLY UNPLEASANT...!


SFX: rise!
AH, BEFORE THAT, I'LL SAY ONE THING.
THIS...!

SFX: blunt!
I AM
EXTREMELY WEAK!

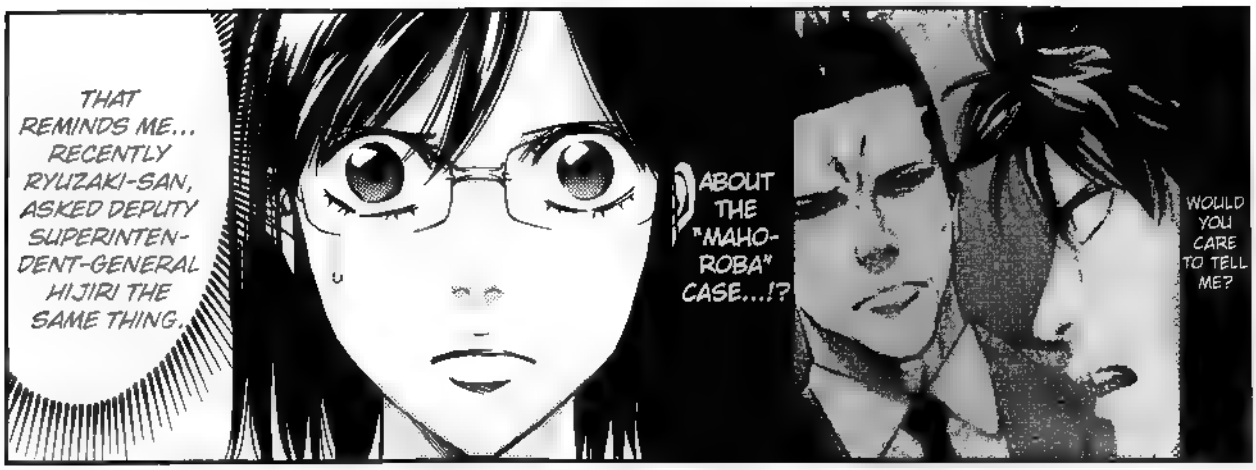
MY ONE AND ONLY PRIDE IS MY SPEED AT SHAKING LOAN SHARK PURSUERS OFF BY RUNNING.
I HAVE CONTRACTED A LARGE DEBT THROUGH CONSUMER CREDIT AND MY AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME IS LESS THAN
DUE TO POVERTY AND MALNOURISHMENT MY PHYSICAL POWER IS LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE ADULT MALE'S.

I'M GIVING YOU A THOUSAND YEN. SO TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE RESEARCHED ABOUT RYUZAKI-SAN ALREADY!!
AAAAH, ENOUGH!!
RIGHT NOW TOO IT'S BEEN A WHOLE DAY SINCE I LAST ATE SOME THING AND I AM STILL STANDING.

IS AN ELITE CAREERIST POLICE OFFICER WHO WIELDS THE POWER OF THE STATE
DUE TO VITAMIN

WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU

DO YOU... KNOW ABOUT IT?
THAT "MAHOROBA" BUSINESS.
... EH?


THAT REMINDS ME... RECENTLY RYUZAKI-SAN, ASKED DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL HIJIRI THE SAME THING.
ABOUT THE "MAHOROBA" CASE...!?
WOULD YOU CARE TO TELL ME?

SFX: puff...
IT'S THE NAME OF AN ORPHANAGE OF THE SMALL-HOUSE SYSTEM.
THE SO-CALLED "MAHOROBA" EXISTED IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO...

SFX: slump
"MAHOROBA" IS AN OLD WORD. IT MEANS "SPLENDID", OR "COMFORTABLE PLACE".
WELL... TO THOSE CHILDREN, IT MUST HAVE REALLY BEEN THAT KIND OF PLACE.

T./N. In Japan, the orphanage system has three tiers, or systems, with regard to institution size. The small-house system consists of institutions for up to 12 children

A CHILD CARE INSTITUTION...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?
OH?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW? EVEN THOUGH RYUZAKI IKUO IS YOUR PARTNER?
SO YOUR RELATIONSHIP DOESN'T GO THAT FAR, AFTER ALL ♫
! TH-THAT IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

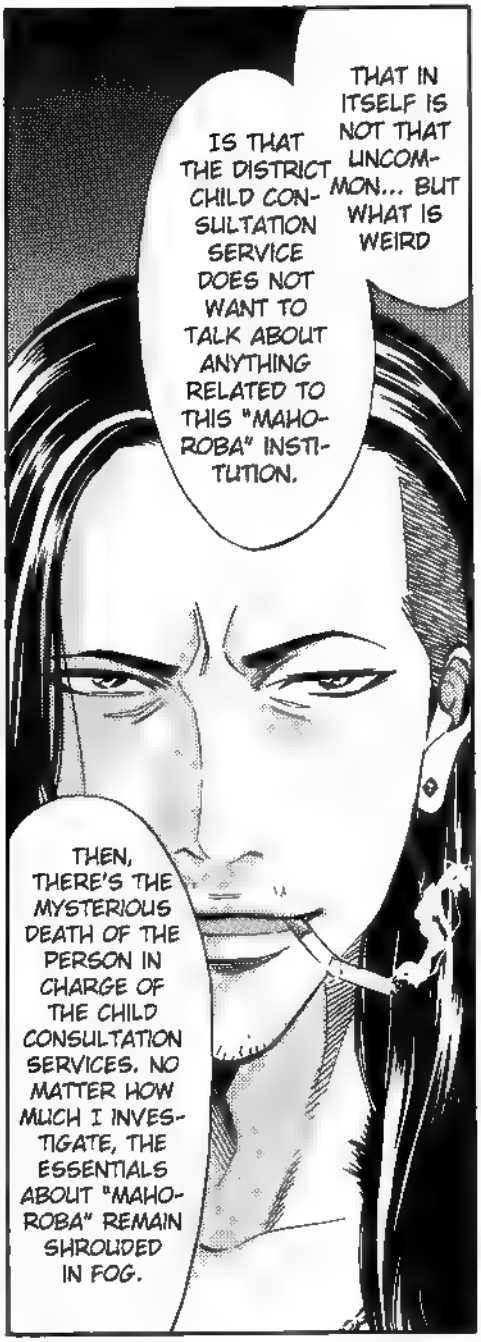
TS/N: So-chan used Nose begone! It was supper effective!

SFX: ba-dump!

NOT KNOWING WHAT THIS MAN'S GOAL IS, BETTER NOT TO TALK ABOUT IT...
THIS NACHI FELLOW... DOES HE KNOW THERE IS A MICROCHIP INSIDE THE NECKLACE? ... NO...

IT WAS AS IF IT HAD NEVER EVEN EXISTED.
I UTTERLY FAILED TO CONTACT EVEN ONE MEMBER OF ITS MANAGEMENT.
HOWEVER, THIS "MAHOROBA" INSTITUTION CEASED TO EXIST SUDDENLY ON A CERTAIN DAY.

I DON'T SEE WHERE THIS STORY IS GOING.
W-WAIT A SEC.

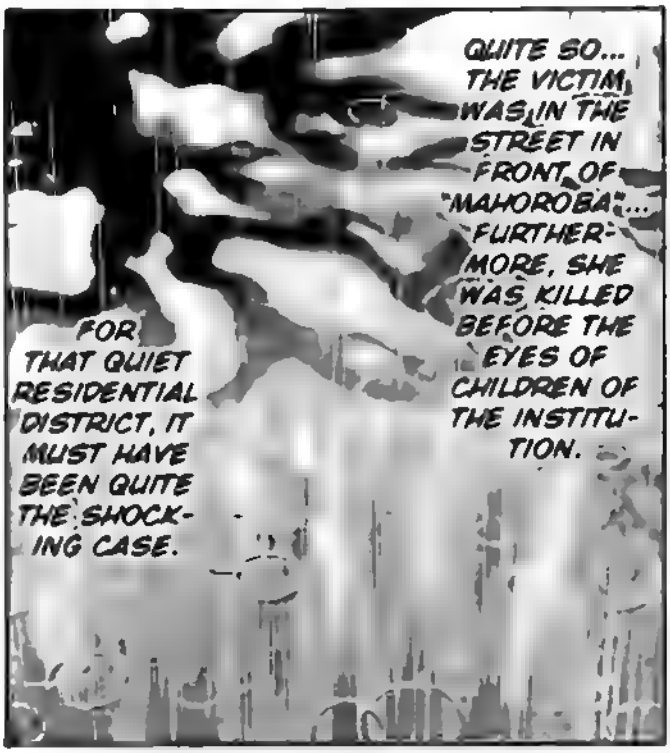

THAT IN ITSELF IS NOT THAT UNCOMMON... BUT WHAT IS WEIRD
IS THAT THE DISTRICT CHILD CONSULTATION SERVICE DOES NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING RELATED TO THIS "MAHOROBA" INSTITUTION.
THEN, THERE'S THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE CHILD CONSULTATION SERVICES. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I INVESTIGATE, THE ESSENTIALS ABOUT "MAHOROBA" REMAIN SHROUDED IN FOG.

I ASKED YOU WHY YOU HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING RYUZAKI-SAN!
JUST ANSWER MY QUESTION ALREADY...
ISN'T SUCH A NARROWNESS OF SIGHT UNBECOMING OF A POLICE OFFICER, HIBINO MIDUKI?

WHA—
THERE'S A REASON WHY "MAHOROBA" SUDDENLY CLOSED ITS DOORS.

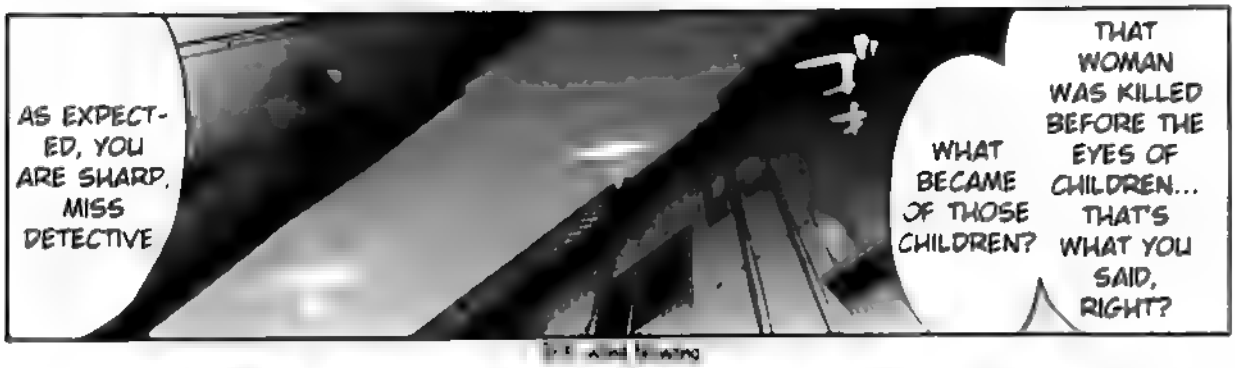
A CRIMINAL CASE...!?
MURDERED... YOU SAY,
!

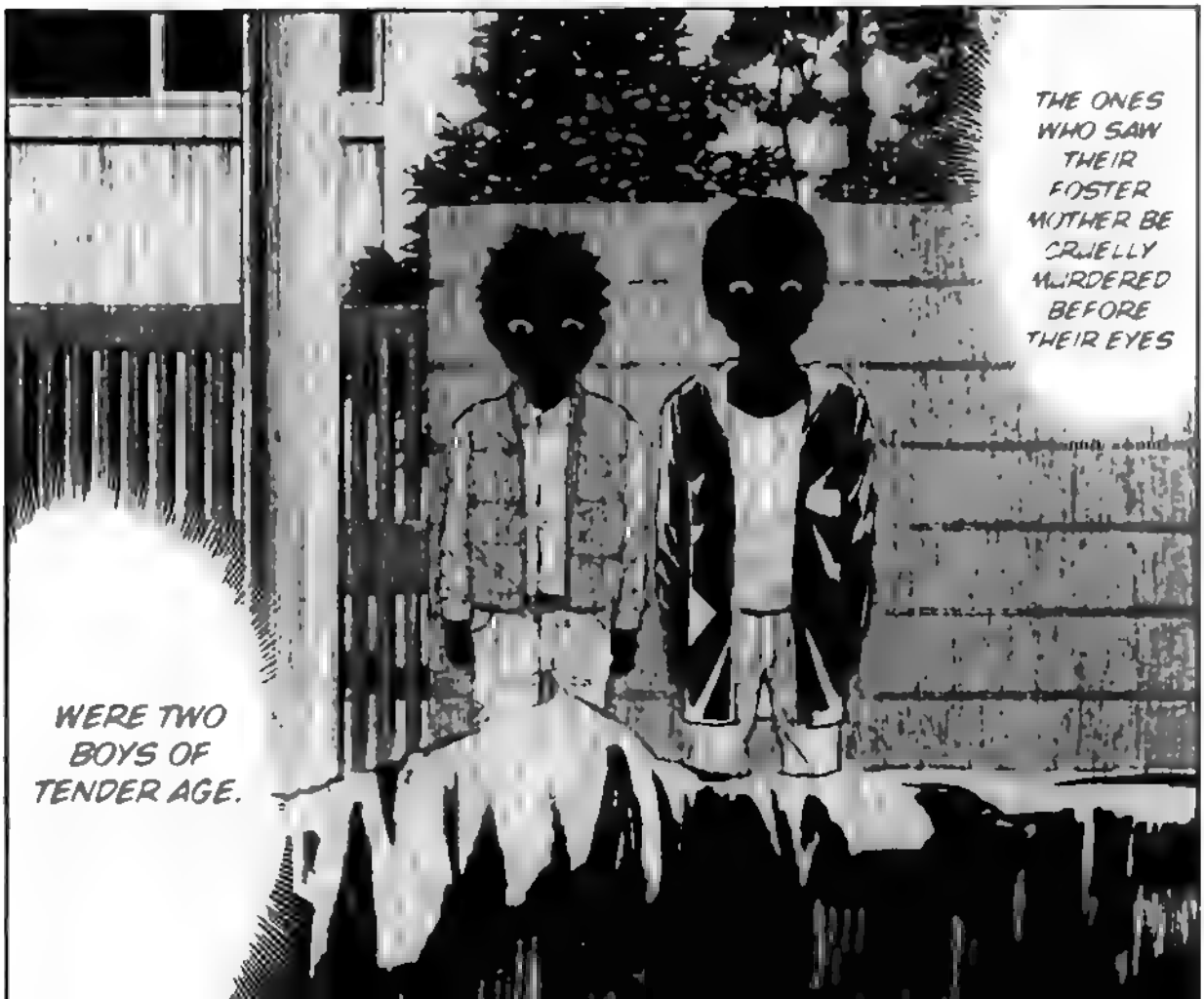
ON A RAINY DAY 17 YEARS AGO, THE WOMAN EMPLOYED AT MAHOROBA AS INSTRUCTOR TO THE ORPHANS WAS MURDERED.
SHE WAS SHOT ONCE IN THE HEART...
THAT IS THE REASON WHY "MAHOROBA" CLOSED ITS DOORS.

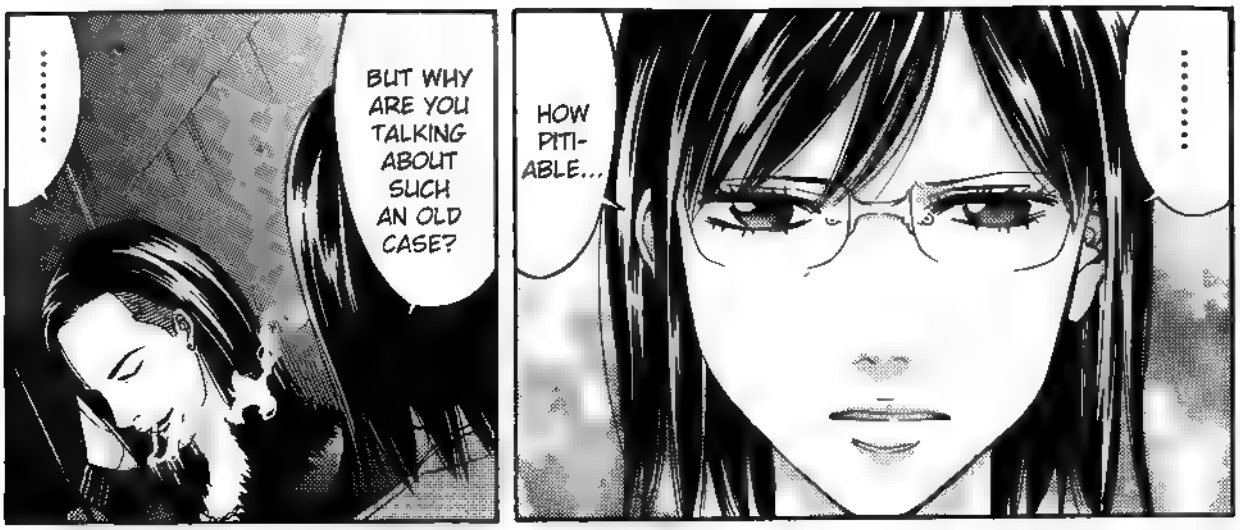

QUITE SO... THE VICTIM WAS IN THE STREET IN FRONT OF "MAHOROBA"... FURTHERMORE, SHE WAS KILLED BEFORE THE EYES OF CHILDREN OF THE INSTITUTION.
FOR THAT QUIET RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE THE SHOCKING CASE.

?
HOWEVER, THE CASE WAS HARDLY REPORTED IN THE MEDIA.

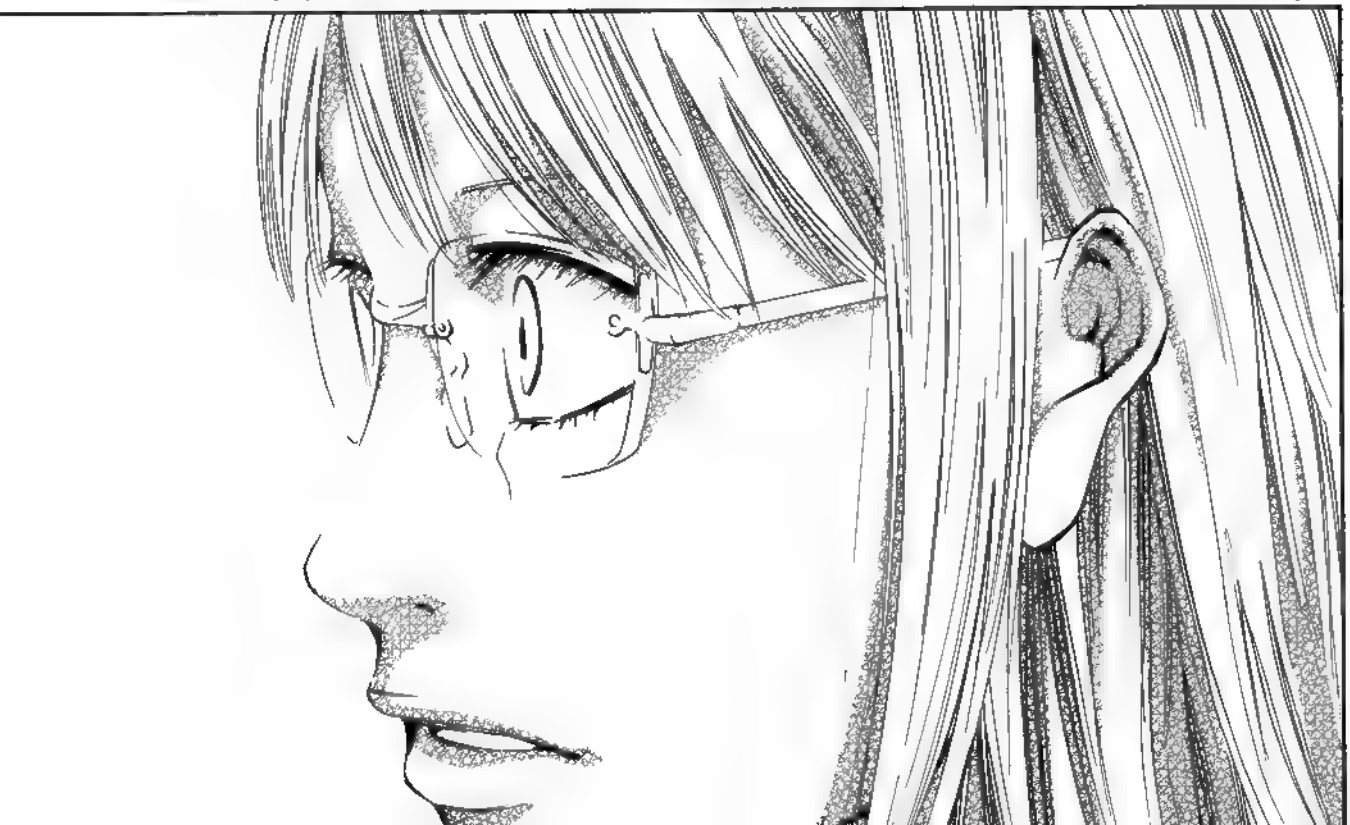
AND EVEN NOW, AFTER 17 YEARS HAVE PASSED THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS IN THE CASE
IN THE END, THE PERPE-TRATOR WASN'T CAUGHT
WAIT.
THE CAUSE WAS THAT A MAJOR CORRUPTION SCANDAL INVOLVING A FAMOUS POLITICIAN BROKE OUT ON THE SAME DAY.
NEXT TO SUCH A BIG SCOOP, REPORTS OF THE MURDER CASE VANISHED.

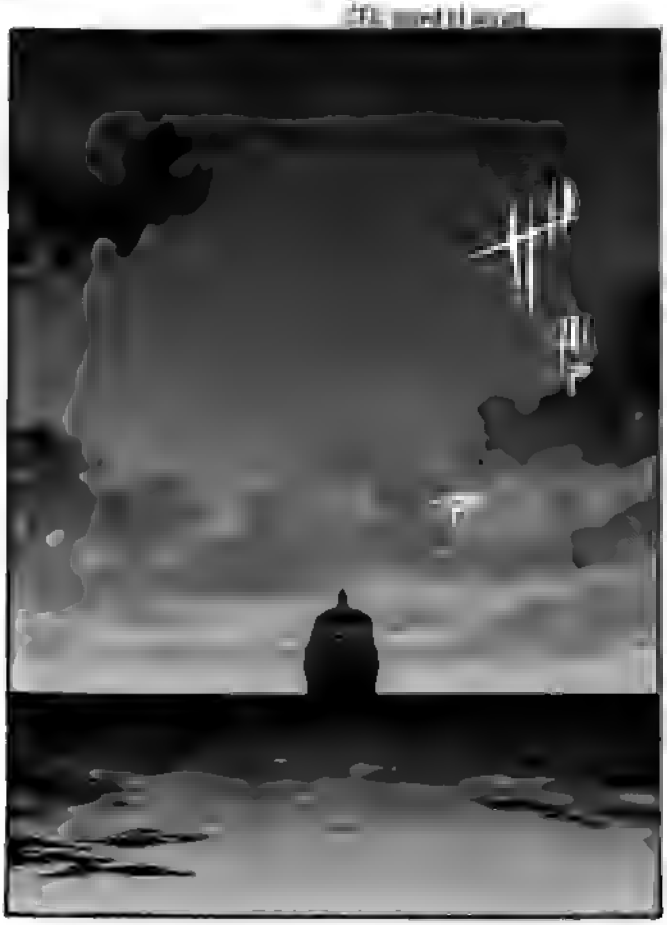

AS EXPECT-ED, YOU ARE SHARP, MISS DETECTIVE
WHAT BECAME OF THOSE CHILDREN?
THAT WOMAN WAS KILLED BEFORE THE EYES OF CHILDREN... THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID, RIGHT?

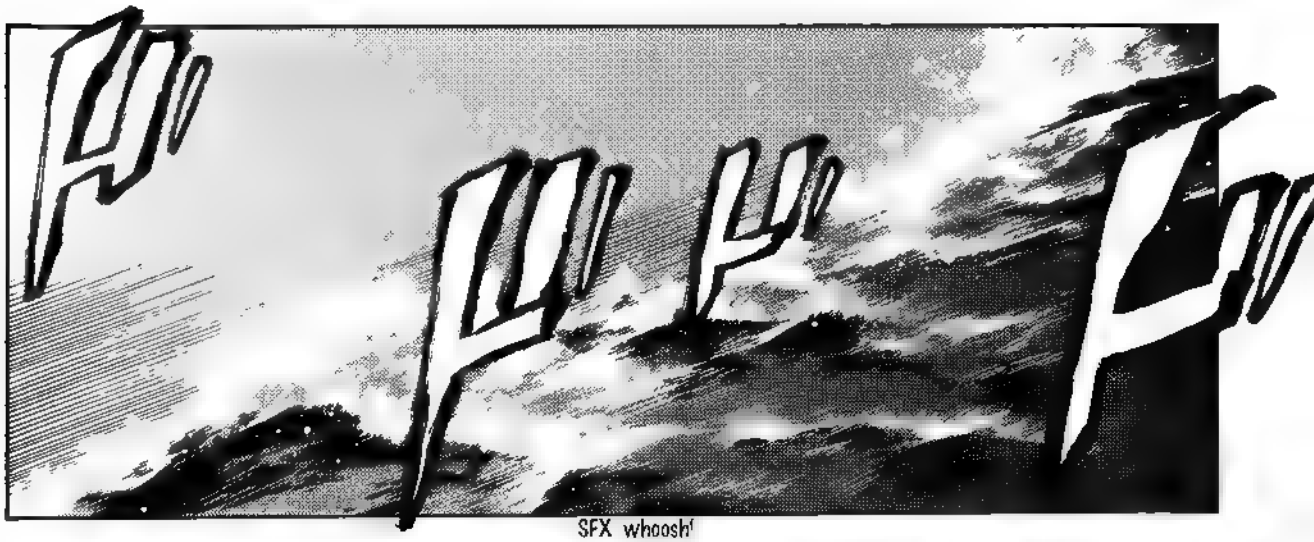

THE ONES WHO SAW THEIR FOSTER MOTHER BE CRUELLY MURDERED BEFORE THEIR EYES
WERE TWO BOYS OF TENDER AGE.



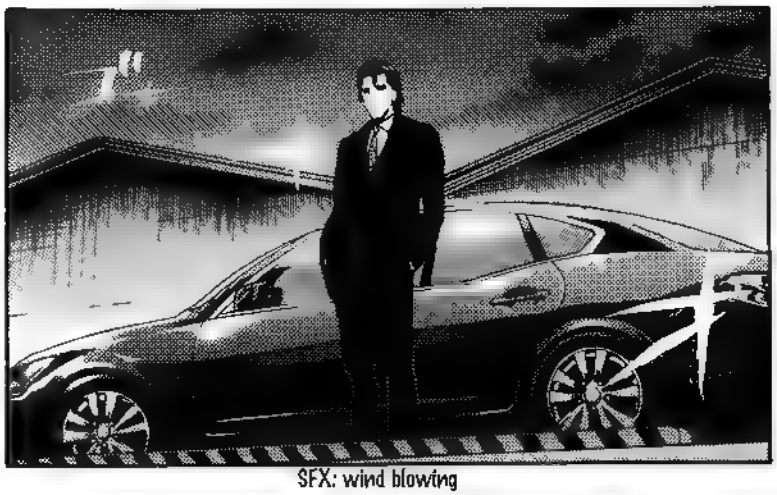
TL/N: This is a slightly modified version of what he said to Mishima in the end of chapter 85. I could have translated that better. Apologies.







SFX: whoosh!



SFX: wind blowing

GNASH...

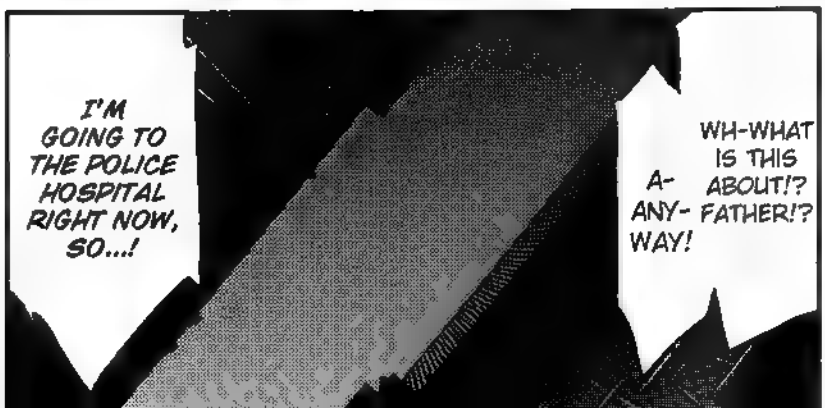
SFX: sound of waves

INDEED.
ONE OF THE CHIL-DREN THAT TIME
WAS RYUZAKI IKUO.

!! ... THEN, COULD IT BE...
THE OTHER CHILD WHO WAS WITH RYUZAKI-SAN AT THE MOMENT OF THE MURDER...
RYUZAKI-SAN
WAS TAT-CHAN...!?
HAD A PAST LIKE THAT...!?

SFX: Jolt!

SFX: snap!



GOOD-BYE.
WAIT RIGHT THERE, YOU!
WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING!
SFX step step step
I KNEW IT, THAT SHIP WAS DANGER-OUS...
WH-WHAT'S THIS ABOUT...!? HOW...!?
SFX: snap!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW THE STORY CON-TINUES, GET IN TOUCH.
I have my own business, too.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO GET BUSY WITH THIS AND THAT...
WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED WITH "MAHO-ROBA"...?
BUT... WHY?
... TELL ME ONE MORE THING, THEN...
I UNDERSTAND THAT "MAHO-ROBA" IS THE REASON WHY YOU ARE INVESTIGATING RYUZAKI-SAN.
WELL, I DON'T HAVE A STRONG REASON, BUT...
WHY?

I, TOO, LIKE RYUZAKI IKUO,
CAME FROM "MAHOROBA", THAT'S WHY.

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

次巻予告

偶然の第⑰巻 今冬発売予定

そして美月が立ちあがる。

「まほろば」とはいったい何だったのか

ウロボロスの首飾りを身につけ一人残された美月は、
イクオと「まほろば」を知る謎の男・ルポライターの那智聡介と共に
事件の核心へ迫っていく。隠されていた過去に触れようとした時、
彼女の周りでは次々と恐ろしい出来事が起きる――。

イクオ重体、

竜哉生死不明、

CASE SUMMARY

ON THE 15TH OF OCTOBER OF THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE HEISEI ERA, A MURDER CASE HAPPENED INVOLVING "MAHOROBA", A SMALL-HOUSE SYSTEM ORPHANAGE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF SHINJUKU WARD, IN THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN AREA. THE VICTIM WAS THE ADMINISTRATOR, KASHIWABA YUIKO. SHE WAS SHOT ONCE IN THE HEART WITH A PISTOL OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN, AND DIED INSTANTLY.

PEOPLE CONNECTED TO THE CASE

VICTIM

KASHIWABA YUIKO... IN CHARGE OF THE "MAHOROBA" ORPHANAGE. CONFIRMED TO HAVE ORIGINALLY BEEN A POLICE OFFICER.

PERPETRATORS

【PUBLIC SECURITY: OSHITARI SQUAD】 ☐ ALL MEMBERS DECEASED

YUWASA KEI'ICHI... RAN AWAY FROM THE ORGANIZATION DUE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS CAUSED BY PUBLIC SECURITY MISSIONS. WAS A SENIOR DIRECTOR OF THE "HAIJIMA CORPORATION", BUT AFTERWARDS BECAME A HOMELESS MAN.

KATSURADA NAKAJI... RESIGNED WHILE SCHEMING TO LEAK PUBLIC SECURITY SECRETS TO THE MASS MEDIA. MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE HEALTH FOOD COMPANY "ARCANA H&B". ESTABLISHED THE COMPANY ON THE FORMER LOCATION OF "MAHOROBA". POSSESSED DATA RELATED TO "MAHOROBA".

GANAHA MAMORU... AFFILIATED WITH THE PLANNING DIVISION OF THE SECURITY BUREAU OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY. ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF THE MPD RIOT POLICE. ASSIGNED TO THE FOURTH RIOT SQUAD, NICKNAMED "THE DEVILS".

OSHITARI KOJI... AFFILIATED WITH THE PLANNING DIVISION OF THE SECURITY BUREAU OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY. LEADER OF THE SHADOW SQUAD OF PUBLIC SECURITY, THE OSHITARI

PRIME SUSPECT

THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN WATCH... AT THE CRIME SCENE, DISMISSED THE COMPLAINTS OF RYUZAKI IKUO AND DAN'NO TATSUYA: THE EYEWITNESSES TO KASHIWABA YUIKO'S MURDER, AND SAW TO IT THAT THE CASE WAS CONSIGNED TO OBLIVION. AS HE THREATENED THE TWO BOYS WHILE HOLDING HIS POLICE ID CARD BEFORE THEM AND WORE A GOLDEN WATCH, HE IS BELIEVED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE MPD.

GOLD WATCHES

IN JAPAN'S FOREMOST UNIVERSITIES, STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE AT THE TOP OF THEIR CLASSES ARE TRADITIONALLY AWARDED UNIQUE GOLDEN AND SILVER WATCHES. THE PEOPLE AWARDED GOLDEN WATCHES, COLLECTIVELY CALLED THE "GOLD WATCH SYNDICATE", FIND THEMSELVES AMONG THE POWERBROKERS OF ALL FIELDS OF SOCIETY, SUCH AS POLITICIANS, BUREAUCRATS, BANKERS AND SENIOR MANAGERS OF LARGE CORPORATIONS. THE GOLD WATCH OWNERS IN THE POLICE ARE RESTRICTED TO A SMALL HANDFUL AMONG THE 500 ELITE CAREERISTS IN ITS CORE; THE SO-CALLED "SUPER-CAREERISTS".

GOLD WATCH OWNERS

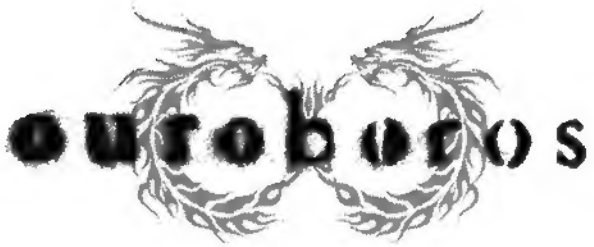
HIJIRI YUKITO [DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL, MPD]
HIBINO KUNIHIKO [INSPECTOR-GENERAL, MPD]
ABIKO KIRINO [KANTO ABIKO GROUP, WIFE OF THE LEADER]

THE OUROBOROS NECKLACE

AFTER HER DEATH, A NECKLACE IN THE SHAPE OF AN OUROBOROS WAS DISCOVERED AMONG KASHIWABA YUIKO'S CHATTELS. MADE OF SILVER. HANDCRAFTED FROM SILVER CLAY. ITS INTERIOR WAS MADE HOLLOW, AND A MICROCHIP IN THE SHAPE OF A SHEET WAS ROLLED UP AND INSERTED INTO IT. THE MICROCHIP IS A PRODUCT MADE IN THE NINETIES BY THE JAPANESE COMPANY KAWADA TECMOS. THE INFORMATION IN IT IS HEAVILY PASSWORD-PROTECTED.
IT IS AN INTENSELY SOUGHT AFTER ITEM, FIRST BY OSHITARI AND GANAHA FROM "ZERO", THEN BY VARIOUS PEOPLE CONNECTED TO THE CASE.

[OUROBOROS]

"TAIL-DEVOURING" IN GREEK. ITS UNIQUE SHAPE CONVEYS THE IDEA OF THE ENDLESSNESS OF THIS WORLD, AS WELL AS "BIRTH AND DEATH", "IMMORTALITY", "INFINITY" AND "DESTRUCTION AND CREATION".



Next issue will be ———

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BUNCH COMICS

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